

Jaden Toussaint, **The Greatest** Episode 3

MUFFIN

WARS

STORY COMPANION GUIDE





Giant Afro - Even Bigger Brain

This story companion guide was developed to assist adults in getting the most out of early reader story time, by offering questions and activities that help to build fluency, vocabulary and comprehension. Readers are prompted to extract and recall key ideas and details. They explore the craft and structure of the story, and are encouraged to integrate knowledge and ideas.

In this episode, Jaden Toussaint, 5 year-old scientist and all around cool dude, has finally met his match. His cousin Muffin is every bit as epic as he is--maybe more! Will Jaden Toussaint keep his cool? Will life as we know it end as a result? Will anyone ever eat his Super Sneaky Seven Fruit Fruit Salad Muffins?

!! All's fair in Muffin Wars -
Vous êtes prêts?

Looking at the title and the cover and table of contents, what do you think the story will be about? Take another look around JT's room, including the view from pages 8 and 9. What more do we learn about our hero? What could this Muffin War be about? Have there been times when you're felt competitive with someone?



Observations

TAKE NOTES IN YOUR NOTEBOOK

To encourage active reading with a purpose, give readers things to search for in their reading. For Jaden Toussaint, the Greatest Episode 3, tell your reader: "Here's your mission: write down any new word

you come across in your word box. Notice any ideas or phrases that get repeated. Make a list all the places visited by any character. Note all the things that make Muffin so awesome.

Even if your children are motivated to read, supporting them with a variety of ways and options will keep the momentum going. Active reading helps the reader engage with the content to understand purpose and learn key concepts. Have your reader pay attention to the extra details and information that can be gathered from the illustrations. What can you see, hear and touch in the story? Stop at points and ask: "What do think will happen next?"



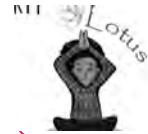
PARLEZ-VOUS FRANÇAIS?

Ask your reader: Do you know any words in another language? What are they? What do they mean? What language is it? Use the list of ways to say "hello" on page 25. Find out the language for each.



THIS REMINDS ME OF A TIME

Ask readers where they have traveled. What did they see? What did they do? What did they bring back? Chart their answers. Grab a map and some stickers. Mark your home city with a star. Mark all the visited locations with round or another shaped sticker.



STOP! 3 MINUTE DANCE PARTY

It's the perfect way to kick your brain into top gear! Looks like JT's preparing for battle. Get up and try the latest ninja dance moves. Let's see some of yours. What do you call them?



LOOKING AT THE DATA

Kicking our brains into gear to solve a stubborn problem!

The scientific method is used to study and learn. It helps children come up with answers. It starts with an observation that leads to a question. The child develops a hypothesis or prediction. They test their ideas, record the results and draw conclusions. Examine the data on pages 21 and 50, in addition to the notes you've taken on Muffin's awesomeness. What do you think the best route to being her friend will be for JT? Why will this work?

F eeling finder:

Stop whenever JT is expressing an emotion or feeling. Why is he feeling that way? How do we know? Have you felt that way? What did you do?

F act or fiction:

Is this story fiction or nonfiction? Is it meant to tell a story or is it designed to give us information? How do you know? Can you find any facts in the story?

Who is this new character, Muffin?

How is she like and different from JT?

- Is Muffin anything like you? How?
- What do you like most about Muffin?
- How do JT's friends help him with the Muffin War?
- Talk about a time when you had to share your space with a cousin or friend.
- Did it go well, or is there something you would change about that time?

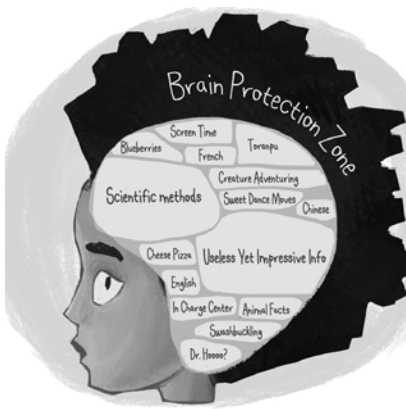
Ask your reader to retell the story. Who was telling the story? Where did the story take place? What were the main events? {When recalling key events, encourage the use of key words such as: FIRST, NEXT, THEN, LAST, AFTER THAT, and FINALLY.} What did you learn from the story? From your notes: What phrase or idea was repeated? What do you think about the methods JT tried to solve his problem?

O ur hero, JT, IS the greatest, but he's still learning

Tell me about JT's nemesis, Muffin. Talk about what's on the outside and what's on the inside. How does JT feel about her? - "At the beginning of the story, JT _____. Then, _____. Now, JT _____." What do JT and Muffin learn from one another?

W hat was the big idea of the story?

What was this story mostly about? What was JT's problem? How did his methods to solve his problems work out? What happened in the end?



THINK LIKE AN INVENTOR:

Be curious. Be creative. Make mistakes. Never stop learning!

Make a list of the types of muffins your reader has tried. Put a check next to the favorites. Put an X by the "not my favorite" ones. Which fruit would your reader like to include in their Super Sneaky Fruit Salad Muffin? Make the muffins!

Have your reader try these strategies for building reading comprehension: **Make predictions:** Keep children interested and engaged asking them to infer what will happen. ("Looking at the pictures, chapter headings, etc. what is the book about?") **Visualize:** Create pictures in their minds to go with the words. **Ask & Answer Questions:** This helps identify confusing texts

and vocabulary. **Retell & summarize:** Putting the story into children's own words clarifies language issues, highlights main ideas vs. supporting details, and encourages remembering the complete story. **Connect the text to life experiences, other texts or prior knowledge:** Helps readers to personalize and retain information.

