



TeachersFirst **READING TREKS**

Every Single Second

Teacher Guide

Access Reading
Trek Map

Grade Level & Content Areas

Ages: 10+

Grades: 3–7 (independent)

Reading Level: 3rd Grade

Lexile Measure: HL580L

Guided Reading Level: O

Developmental Reading

Assessment (DRA): 31

Content Areas: English/language arts, reading, literature, social studies.

Synopsis of Book

Tricia Springstubb captures the array of twelve-year-old Nella's emotions and expectations as she encounters the struggles of growing up in a large family, the revelation of a tragic family secret, controversial ethnic mindsets within her community, the dynamics of changing relationships and their reconciliations, and the death of a stranger at the hands of a friend. This text realistically portrays a veteran's struggle with PTSD and its impact on his family and community and openly shares controversial beliefs and prejudices that influence the characters as they work through adversity and catastrophes. Throughout the story, Nella and her best friend, Clem, seek a perfect, memorable way to capture the "leap second." As with Springstubb's other works, hope endures, and Nella learns the importance of every single second.

Standards

Common Core State Standards for K–5

Reading: Literature

- Key Ideas and Details

Speaking and Listening

- Comprehension and Collaboration

Writing

- Text Types and Purposes
- Research to Build and Present Knowledge

Common Core State Standards for 6–12

Reading: Literature

- Key Ideas and Details

Speaking and Listening

- Comprehension and Collaboration

Writing

- Text Types and Purposes
- Research to Build and Present Knowledge

National Curriculum Standards for Social Studies

- Theme 1: CULTURE
- Theme 2: TIME, CONTINUITY, AND CHANGE
- Theme 3: PEOPLE, PLACES, AND ENVIRONMENTS
- Theme 4: INDIVIDUAL DEVELOPMENT AND IDENTITY
- Theme 6: POWER, AUTHORITY, AND GOVERNANCE

National Core Arts Standards for Visual Arts

- CREATING
- RESPONDING

Using a TeachersFirst® Reading Trek to Explore This Book

TeachersFirst Reading Treks create a virtual field trip of resources about a piece of literature or a text using the My Maps feature of Google Maps. To motivate and enrich student reading, teachers and students can reference this visual collection of web resources and images as they relate to the contents of a book.

TeachersFirst has done the hard work for you! Use the activities in this teacher guide and the accompanying [Reading Trek map](#) as you and your students explore this book. And, if you feel inspired, you (or your students) can create your own Reading Trek about this or another book!

Using This Reading Trek in Class

Below is a list of ideas for how to use this Reading Trek in your educational setting.

Working with the Map:

1. Introduce the book to the whole class on an interactive whiteboard using the Reading Trek map, highlighting its various layers.
2. Create a timeline of friendships using Preceden ([TeachersFirst review](#)) or Timeline Infographic Templates ([TeachersFirst review](#)) for younger students.
3. Discuss consequences of actions, both appropriate/good and inappropriate/bad. Include conversations regarding gray areas. Use WordClouds ([TeachersFirst review](#)) to create two different word clouds of student suggestions of consequences for appropriate and inappropriate actions. Another option is



Poll Everywhere ([TeachersFirst review](#)), where students can suggest their ideas anonymously to create the word cloud.

4. Visit illustrator [Diana Sudyka's collection of natural history paintings](#) with the class. Compare these with her [folk art paintings](#).

Extension Activities:

1. As a part of recess or in conjunction with the physical education teacher, play Bocce Ball after researching the rules and materials needed.
2. Make lemon Italian ice (or granita) similar to what Terraci's would have served and enjoy it the following day. Boil 4 cups of water and 1 cup of granulated sugar together. While the solution is cooking, zest 2 lemons to yield 1 tablespoon lemon zest with no pith and juice 5 lemons to yield $\frac{3}{4}$ cup fresh lemon juice (not bottled), then add to the solution when the sugar is completely dissolved. Pour into a shallow dish, preferably metal. Freeze for 1 hour, then stir with a fork. Repeat the freezing and stirring process until all of the solution is frozen, but not completely solid. To serve, drag a large metal spoon across the surface and place in small cups.
3. Contact the Public Affairs Office at a nearby veteran's hospital about the procedure for students to send handwritten notes of encouragement to disabled service members.

Have students choose one from each category and compose a written response or create a graphic organizer using Free Venn Diagram Generator ([TeachersFirst review](#)).

5. Discuss what it means to be an American after taking a 31-minute virtual field trip to Ellis Island ([TeachersFirst review](#)).

Be certain to discuss PTSD with the class before this assignment and collect notes for distribution in unsealed envelopes.

4. Sketch a statue that might be found in an old cemetery or sculpt one from clay. This activity could be done in conjunction with the art teacher. Write a statement or collection of statements of what the statue might say if it could.
5. Take a virtual field trip/walking tour to some of these Little Italy communities around the United States:
 - a. [Walking Tour of Little Italy - New York](#)
 - b. [New York City's Little Italy - The Suzy Guides](#)
 - c. [Tour of Little Italy - New York City](#)
 - d. [Little Italy Mott Street Exploration - Then and Now](#)
 - e. [Little Italy - Baltimore](#)
 - f. [Little Italy - Chicago](#)

Helpful Resources

From TeachersFirst:

- [TeachersFirst CurriConnects Book List - Maps](#)
- [TeachersFirst Review of Google My Maps](#)
- [OK2Ask: Google My Maps Basics](#)
- [OK2Ask: Engage & Inspire with Reading Treks](#)

Other Resources:

- [Tricia Springstubb](#) and her [discussion guide](#) for the text
- [Diana Sudyka](#)