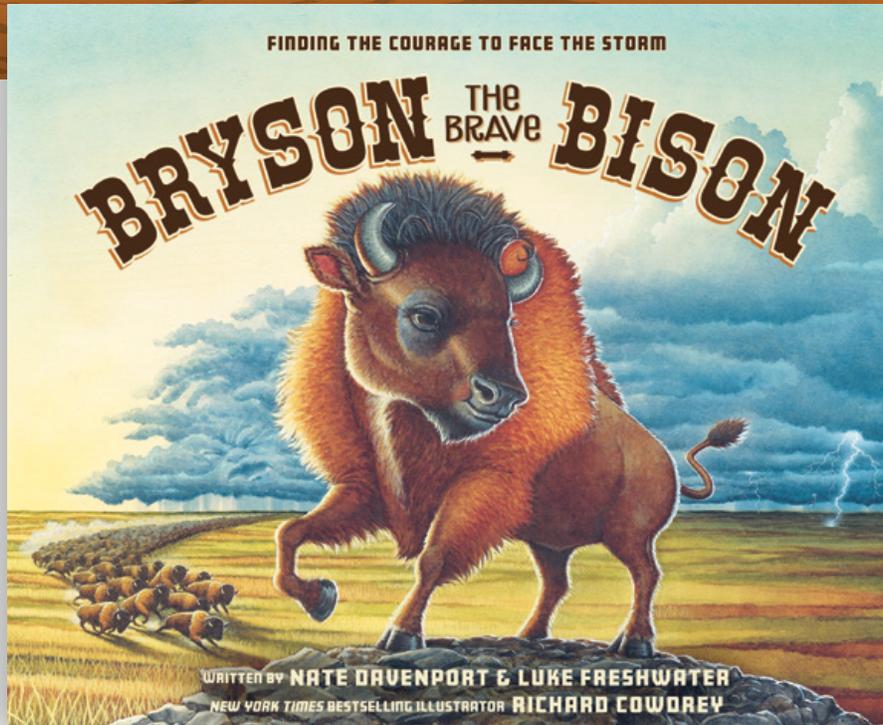


# CURRICULUM GUIDE



**ON SALE: 6/27/23**  
9780310153108 | \$18.99

## BRYSON THE BRAVE BISON

WRITTEN BY **NATE DAVENPORT & LUKE FRESHWATER**

**NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLING ILLUSTRATOR RICHARD COWDREY**

Bryson the Brave is brave, courageous, and smart! Join Bryson as he shows his crew that sticking together and meeting challenges head-on is the right thing to do. Let's learn to face our fears boldly, and we can get through to the other side!

Written by two brave dads, *Bryson the Brave Bison* is an engaging story that will encourage healthy self-esteem and confidence in our students, ages four to eight. The fun illustrations and rhyme will draw readers in and take them on a journey of discovering the courage to face tough times.

**BE BRAVE.  
FACE THE  
STORM.**

*The Common Core State Standards addressed by the discussion questions, activities, and worksheets in this guide are noted throughout. For more information on the standards, visit [corestandards.org](http://corestandards.org).*

*All discussion questions address the following standards, generally; more specific standards are noted with each question: CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.K.1; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.1.1; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.2.1*

# DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1

Let's see what we can figure out about the book! Who is the author? Is there more than one? What does an illustrator do? Who is the illustrator of Bryson the Brave Bison? Point out the spine of the book. [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.K.6](#)

2

Who is the main character? What clues does the story give you to tell you that this is the main character? Who are some of his friends?

[CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.K.3](#); [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.1.3](#);  
[CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.2.1](#)

3

Dialogue is a conversation. Who is speaking in this story? How is dialogue shown in a text? To whom is he speaking? Do you think they listened?

[CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.1.6](#); [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.2.6](#)

4

The setting is where and when the story takes place. What is the setting?

[CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.K.3](#); [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.1.3](#); [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.2.1](#)

5

What made the bison scared? Can you tell this from the reading or from the illustrations? What makes you scared? Either share this or draw a picture.

[CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.K.7](#); [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.K.10](#); [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.1.7](#);  
[CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.1.10](#); [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.2.7](#); [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.2.10](#)

6

On page nine: What noise do you think the girls heard? What did they hate to hear? Think about what you learned about bison at the beginning of the story.

[CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.K.6](#); [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.1.6](#); [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.2.6](#)

7

Study page sixteen. What does "transformed" mean? Use the context to talk about what the word might mean. How was their idea of fear transformed? Discuss or draw a chart about how their fear was transformed. What did they think about fear in the beginning? What do they realize about fear now?

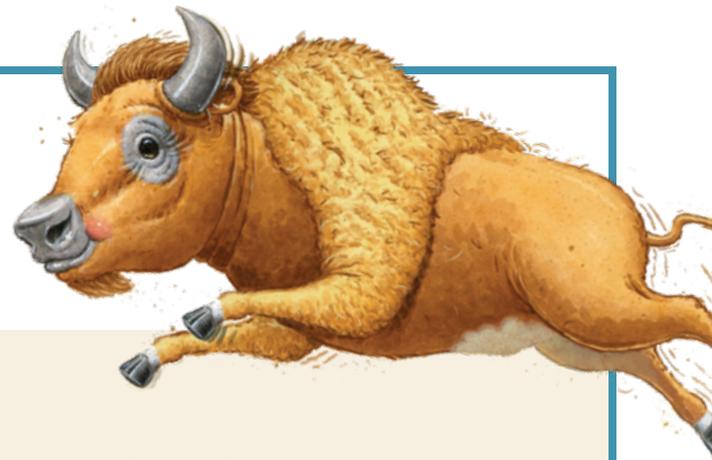
[CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.IT.K.4](#); [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.IT.1.4](#); [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.IT.2.4](#)

8

What is a lesson we can learn from this book? Look especially at the last page. Discuss what this might mean in your own life and give examples.



# ACTIVITIES



## SMARTS!

What was Bryson good at? What are you good at? Brainstorm ideas and write out a list together. We are “smart” in different ways! Choose one that describes what you are good at. Create a poster by drawing, cutting and pasting pictures, or using other creative means to show your talent or ability. Display them around the room to see what each of you bring to the classroom! We can value our own “smarts” and see that we are smart in many ways!

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.K.7; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.K.10; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.1.7;  
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.1.10; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.2.7; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.2.10

## LET'S PLAY!

Look at the illustration on page eight. Find the games mentioned in the picture. How do you know which game is pictured? What are your clues? Which game would you want to be involved in? If it's a nice day, go outside and divide your “herd” into three or four groups to play some “herd” games, like the ones pictured. Instead of “chase-your-tail,” you could play catch. You could play “hide-and-go-seek,” just like the bison! Instead of “jump-the-fence,” maybe you could do doubles jump (two swing the rope while a third jumps). Instead of “roll-in-the-creek,” how about leapfrog? Have fun with your herd!

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.K.7; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.K.10; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.1.7;  
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.1.10; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.2.7; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.2.10

## CONQUERING FEARS!

Take a look at the picture on page eleven. What emotions is the bison herd feeling? Write out a list of words that you think might be fitting. Then brainstorm emotions that are opposite of the ones listed. Did you know that when you are afraid it's hard for your brain to make decisions? Just like the bison, everyone gets afraid sometimes. There are ways though to settle your fears. And once you settle your fears your brain can make plans and think again, just like Bryson. Practice calming your body by taking a deep breath and blowing it out slowly (three times). Then name three things you can see, three sounds that you can hear, and move three different parts of your body. Lastly, get up and walk very slowly and pay attention to your body. See if those exercises help calm your heart, mind, and body. Then you can go out and face your fears!

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.K.7; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.K.10; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.1.7;  
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.1.10; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.2.7; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.2.10

Name \_\_\_\_\_

# COMPARE AND CONTRAST

Watch bison in the wild and create a comparison/contrast chart of observations from the book versus the video footage.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CNktgfZRjIU&ab\\_channel=GPWalshPhotography](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CNktgfZRjIU&ab_channel=GPWalshPhotography)

Note: This is a short, 2-minute video set to music.

CCSS.ELA-WRITING.K.8; CCSS.ELA-WRITING.1.8; CCSS.ELA-WRITING.2.8

BOOK

VIDEO

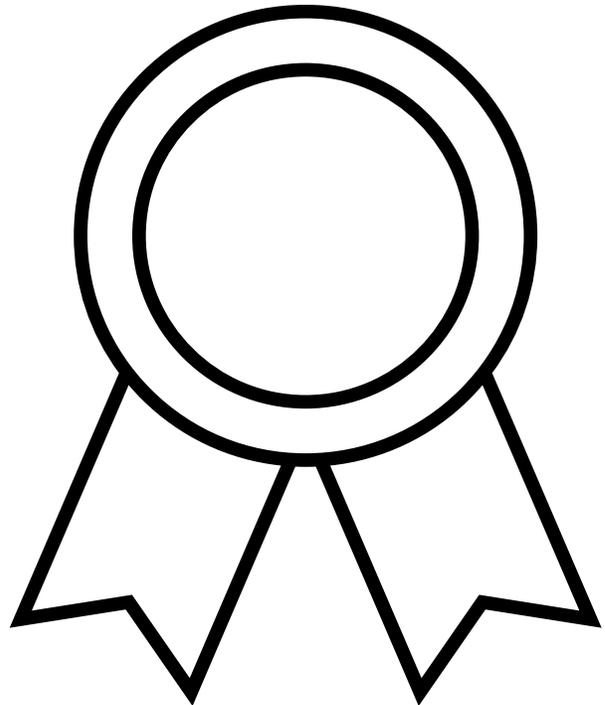
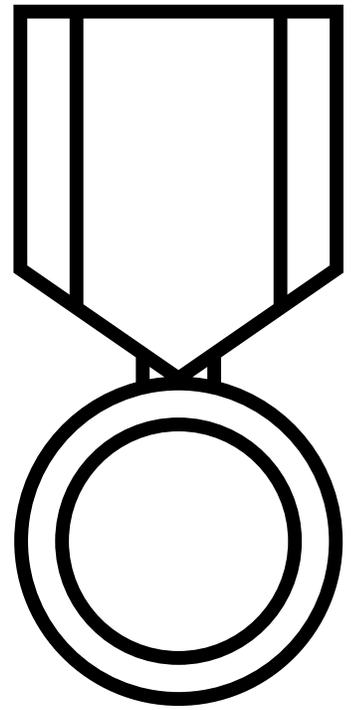
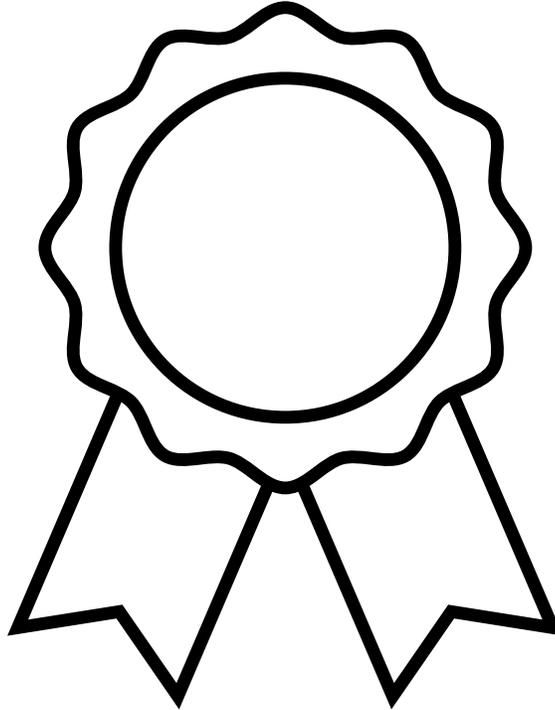
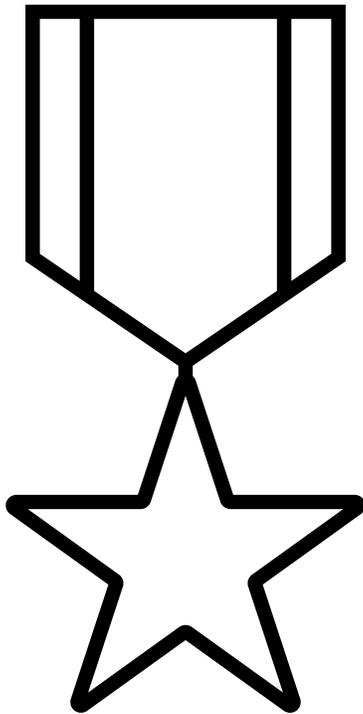


Name \_\_\_\_\_

# DESIGN A MEDAL

One of the main themes of *Bryson the Brave Bison* is that we can face fears boldly! Talk about ways to be brave at school, at home, or when facing new situations. Be on the lookout for how your classmates take steps of bravery. Design and create your own medals to give out for bravery!

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.2.7



Name \_\_\_\_\_

RL  
1.4

# RHYMING PAIRS

Match up the rhyming words from the story! The pattern in the story is AA, BB, so each word on the left needs just one match from the right. Draw a line to its match! Sound out the words in order to decide which ones belong together. Remember that it is the sound that rhymes, not whether or not the words look the same. Then create your own AA, BB rhyming word pairs!

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.K.5; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.1.4



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Name \_\_\_\_\_

RL  
2.4

# RHYMING PAIRS



Match up the rhyming words from the story!  
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CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.K.5; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.2.4

reason

nails

squeaking

away

herd

noise

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stay

tails

absurd

boys

creaking

season

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Name \_\_\_\_\_

# COURAGE

What did courage look like for Bryson? See page thirteen for ideas! Talk about what it means to be the point man. What is courage? What does it look like for you and your friends?

Create a bubble map! Write "courage" in the middle with a short definition.

Then in the surrounding bubbles tell what that means in your life. Write or draw examples of situations in which you can show courage! Choose one to try soon.

CCSS.ELA-WRITING.K.8; CCSS.ELA-WRITING.1.8; CCSS.ELA-WRITING.2.8

