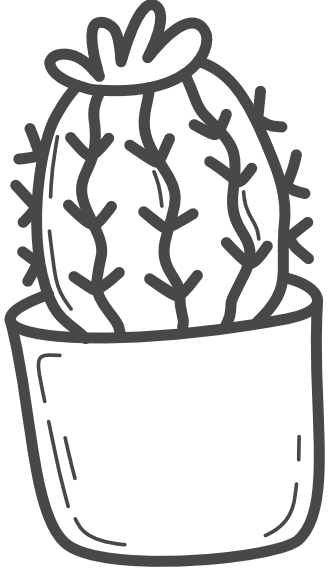


One Book, One School

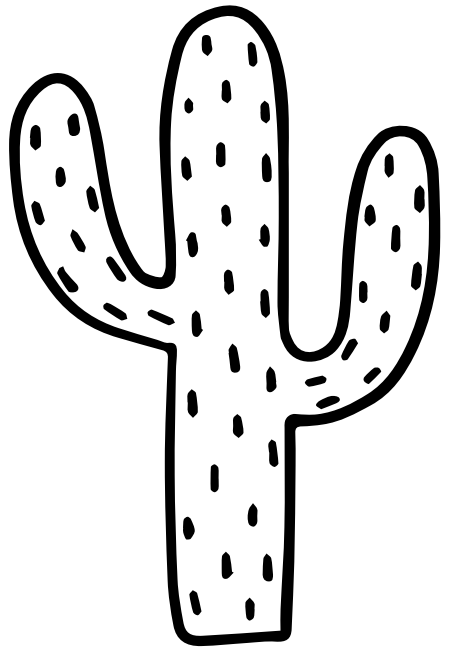
2025-2026

The Beat I Drum. by Dusti Bowling

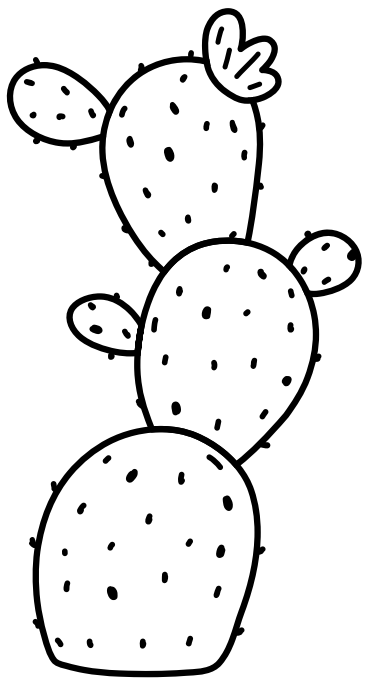
Think about these questions after you are done reading. These questions will help prepare you for class discussions in September.



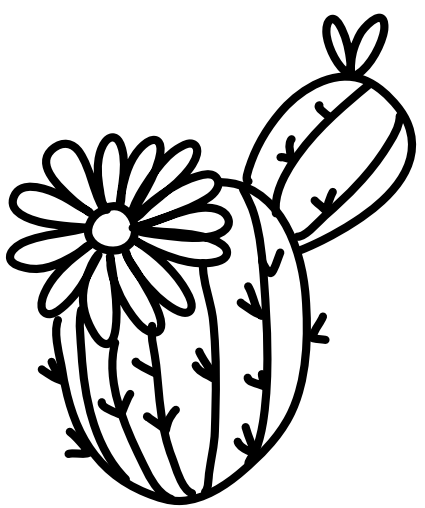
Connor has Tourette Syndrome, which causes him make sounds and movements he can't control. These are called "tics." How do characters in the book respond? What would you do if you met someone like Connor?



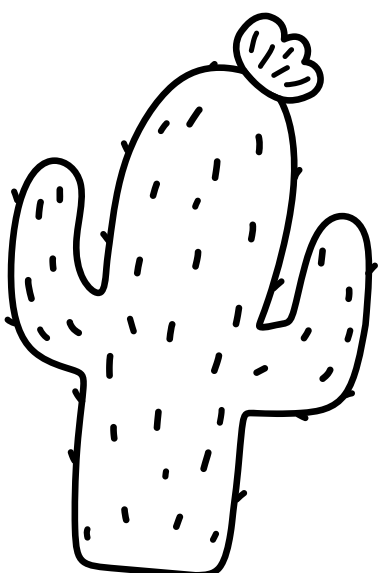
Think about Connor and his friends. They each have something that makes them look different from their classmates. They also have special talents their classmates may not know about them. What would you like people to know about you? What might this tell you about judging people based on their appearance?



Connor is haunted by his father shouting at him, "just stop it Connor!" It turns out, his father is haunted by it, too. Was there ever a time you said something to a family member or friend you regretted? How did you try to make up for what you said?



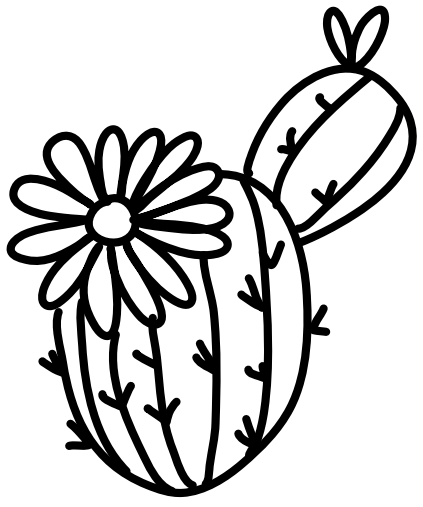
How do Connor's family dynamics change from the beginning to the end of the novel? At what point in the novel did you realize Connor is willing to forgive his father?



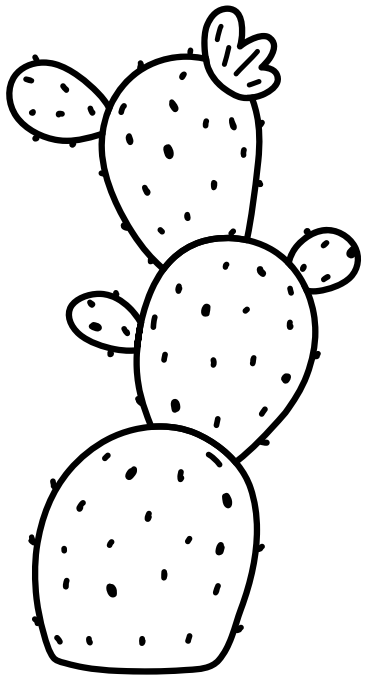
Connor struggles with dealing with Liam, the class bully. Why do you think Liam is unkind to Connor and Rory? Do you think what Connor did to Liam was right or wrong?

One Book, One School

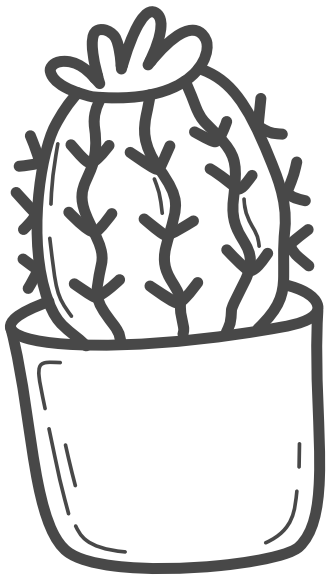
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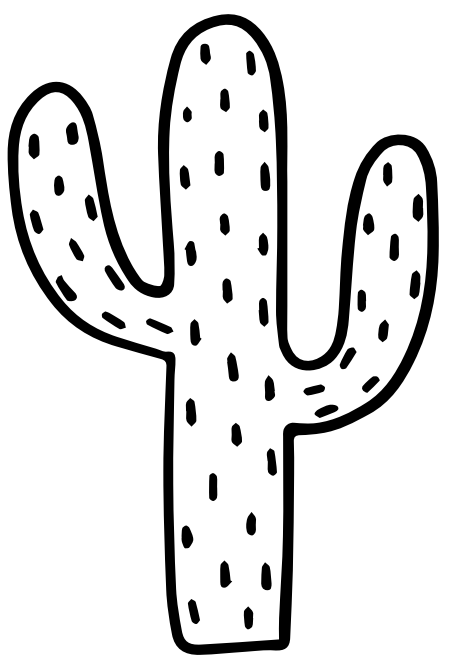
The author spends a lot of time discussing the heat in Arizona and how uncomfortable it can make the characters. What do you think the heat represents? How is it like what Connor is feeling inside?



Think about Ms. Chen, the music teacher. What makes her a special or unique teacher? How is she similar and different to Connor's parents?



The Pipe Organ Pizza restaurant is really different! Would you be brave enough to perform at a restaurant like that? Why or why not?



Connor describes feelings of anger that keep getting bigger and bigger as the story goes on. Think of one example from the book that makes him angry. Can you empathize with how he is feeling, or do you think he needs to just "get over it."

Where Are You Reading this Summer?

Are you bringing your book on vacation or reading at home? Wherever you read, share a pic of YOU and YOUR BOOK on Instagram and tag the Media Center: @htsd_mediacenter. Ask to use a parent's account if you don't have social media.