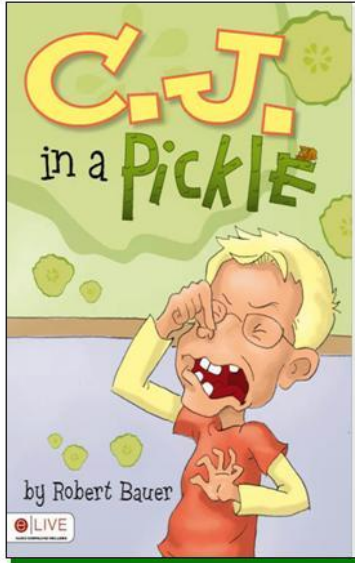


# C.J. In a Pickle

Guided Reading Level: N

Lexile Level: 620L



## Summary

C.J. Morris cuts his hair, hoping that his mom won't notice. When she does, he makes up lies to get out of this pickle. In the end, an elephant convinces C.J. to tell the truth because it is the right thing to do.

## Objective

Students will accurately identify the theme or author's message in a grade-level-appropriate text.

Author: Robert Bauer

Genre: Fiction

Word Count: 250+

Theme/Idea: honesty, telling the truth

## Before Reading...

*Ask* students if they have ever told a lie to get out of trouble.

*Explain* that this is something that many people do.

*Ask* students if this is a good choice.

*Extend* the connection by having students share a time when they told a lie to get out of trouble. *Ask*: "When you told this lie, how did you feel?"

## Vocabulary

**imagination** - the ability to form pictures or ideas in your mind

**truth** - that which is true

**punishment** - something that occurs to decrease an undesirable behavior

**proud** - feeling very pleased with something

## Genre

Fiction is any kind of writing that is not factual. Fictional writing most often takes the form of a story meant to convey an author's point of view or simply to entertain.

## During Reading...

### Behaviors to notice and support:

*Adapted from Guided Reading by Fountas & Pinnell*

- Reads silently, except during fluency assessment or to demonstrate text interpretation
- Uses meaning, structure, and visual cues to understand the story and figure out new words.
- Reads with high accuracy, fluency, and phrasing.
- Demonstrates an understanding of the text after silent reading

## After Reading...

*Discuss* the phrase "In a Pickle". *Ask* students what that means in our story. *Ask* student why the author chose the title C.J. In a Pickle.

**Within the Text** (*students should be able to cite the actual text*)

*Ask* "What did the elephant say was hard about lying?"

*Ask* "Why did mom say she was "so proud" of C.J.?"

**Beyond the Text**

Have students discuss how C.J. changed in the story. *Ask* "Why do you think he changed his mind and told the truth?"

*Ask* "Why do you think mom said, "Maybe we can stop by and get some dill pickle ice cream on our way home?"

