

# Teacher's Guide - The Marble Harvest

## About the Book

Set in the bread basket of the nation, *The Marble Harvest* is a story about fruits and vegetables, joys and tears. It is also a story about marbles, those perfectly round, perfect toys that are so representative of our desire for perfection, and our need to grasp something that is not abstract or virtual. It takes more than one person to play marbles, and this story demonstrates the importance of connecting with family and friends to overcome challenges and adversity.

This is a story about being true to yourself, and about not being ashamed of who you are. In the few short pages of this children's story is an epic that every child must read in order to understand some of life's fundamental lessons.

## Character List

Beatrice	Myra (Rosemarie's daughter)
Steve (Beatrice's brother)	Mr. Sunshine (the rooster that wakes Beatrice up)
Aunt Connie (Beatrice's aunt)	Susan (the librarian)
Uncle Tomas (Beatrice's uncle)	Mary (Beatrice's classmate)
Mrs. Mooney (Beatrice's teacher)	Captain Smith (captain of the cruise ship)
Rusty (Beatrice's dog)	Ryan (Beatrice's classmate)
Ruben (Steve's friend)	Bob (Ryan's dad)
Natalie (Beatrice's friend)	Norma (the teacher's aid)
Rosemarie (Ruben's older sister)	

## Prelude

Questions	Answers
1. Raise your hand if you have worked picking fruits or vegetables.	
2. Raise your hand if you have worked around your house. What did you do?	
3. Who is the main character?	Beatrice
4. Describe Beatrice's teacher?	Not pretty, plainly dressed, with square brown shoes, a yellow flowery dress, and a knitted black button up sweater when it is cold

## Chapter 1

Questions	Answers
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1. How many marbles did Steve grab?	Six
2. Where did Steve keep his marbles?	In a large coffee can
3. Where did Beatrice live?	317 North Derby Street
4. In what city did Beatrice live with her brother, Steve?	Fowler, California
5. What assignment did Mrs. Mooney give to the class?	An essay about their summer vacation

## Chapter 2

Questions	Answers
1. What was Steve's best friend's name?	Ruben
2. What ingredients does Beatrice use to make tortillas?	Flour, warm water, bacon drippings, salt, baking powder
3. How did Beatrice cook the tortillas?	On the hot skillet
4. What planet did Beatrice think her Aunt Connie came from?	Jupiter or Mars
5. Can you name some other planets?	Earth, Venus, Mercury, Saturn, Uranus

## Chapter 3

Questions	Answers
1. What kind of dog does Beatrice have?	A German Shepherd
2. How many of you have a pet dog?	
3. What does Beatrice feed her dog? What are scraps? Is this good food for a pet dog?	Scraps, ---, no, dogs should eat dog food
4. Do you help your family around the house?	
5. What games did Beatrice like to play with her friend at school?	Jump rope & Barbie dolls

## Chapter 4

Questions	Answers
1. What are some of your favorite smells? Describe them.	[popcorn, cinnamon, chocolate chip cookies]
2. Have you ever lost your voice? How?	
3. How long does it take you to get ready for school? Do you have a set routine? What is it?	
4. What did Beatrice do when she found out Steve was sick?	She asked someone to get help from an adult (Rosemarie)

## Chapter 5

Questions	Answers
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1. What was Ruben's sister's name?	Rosemarie
2. What did she do to help Steve?	She gave him some children's aspirin, rubbed Vick's rub on his throat and chest, and put a cool cloth on his forehead
3. What reason did Beatrice give to Ruben about why she could not go to school?	She had to take care of her brother, Steve, because her aunt and uncle would be home late
4. How was Beatrice helping her brother?	She covered him with a blanket, gave him warm water for his throat, and she made tortillas for him

## Chapter 6

Questions	Answers
1. What did Rosemarie tell Beatrice about Steve?	That he needed to stay in bed and rest because he was ill
2. What happened to Beatrice when Aunt Connie took Steve to the doctor?	She started crying and fell asleep
3. What did the note that Aunt Connie left for Beatrice say?	Steve is in the hospital, and your uncle Tomas and I went to work. GO TO SCHOOL!
4. Who is Mr. Sunshine?	The rooster

## Chapter 7

Questions	Answers
1. How did Beatrice feel about her Aunt Connie?	a) Angry b) Happy c) Silly d) Not sure
2. Did Beatrice feel good about being angry with Aunt Connie?	No
3. Did Beatrice feel ashamed for having bad feelings about Aunt Connie?	Yes
4. Who took Beatrice to the hospital?	Rosemarie, Ruben's sister
5. Do you think Beatrice was brave? Why or why not?	
6. What was the name of Beatrice's friend?	Natalie

## Chapter 8

Questions	Answers
1. On what floor of the hospital was Steve's room?	Third floor
2. What was his room number?	a) 309 ✗ b) 409 c) 509 d) 313
3. What did Steve eat while he was in the hospital?	Ice cream

4. What did Beatrice see in the lobby of the hospital?	The guard, the plant in the lobby, the elevator buttons
5. How did Beatrice react when she saw Steve in the hospital?	She was happy
6. Have you ever been a patient at a hospital? How did you feel about it?	

## Chapter 9

Questions	Answers
1. What effect did the library have on Beatrice?	It was a calming influence on her
2. What was the name of the librarian?	Susan
3. How did the librarian help Beatrice?	She brought her books about vacation spots for kids
4. What was Beatrice drawing while she was daydreaming about her story?	The sun, the vineyards, and the truck that carried the picked grapes
5. How long did Beatrice and her family have for lunch when they worked in the fields?	20 minutes

## Chapter 10

Questions	Answers
1. How did Beatrice start writing her story?	She looked at a picture she had drawn of the sun, and decided to tell the truth about her summer “vacation”
2. What did Beatrice wear to the fields to work?	A hat, gloves, a long sleeved shirt
3. What time did Beatrice get up so she could go to work?	4:30 a.m.
4. What did Uncle Tomas tell Beatrice about helping the family?	The harder we worked, the more we would prosper, and have a nice holiday
5. Uncle Tomas called this valley one of the largest agricultural areas in the United States. What was the name of the valley?	The San Joaquin Valley
6. Beatrice talks about how hard it is working in the fields. Explain what made the work so hard.	Heat, stinging insects, no restrooms nearby, long hours, bending over constantly

## Chapter 11

Questions	Answers
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1. What types of crops did Beatrice pick in the fields?	
2. What day did the class have to turn in the assignment?	Monday, September 12th
3. What items did Beatrice’s classmates take to play with outside?	Balls, ropes, dolls
4. What did Beatrice say to herself about going to school?	She was much happier being in class than working in the hot, dusty fields

## Chapter 12

Questions	Answers
1. What did Mary write about her summer vacation?	She went on a cruise
2. Do you think Mary had a wonderful vacation?	
3. Who was Captain Smith?	Captain of the cruise ship
4. What did Captain Smith tell Mary about the ocean environment?	He said that it is important to keep the oceans clean so that the fish will be able to live

## Chapter 13

Questions	Answers
1. Where did Ryan’s father take him on his summer vacation?	Camping in the mountains
2. What were some of the things Ryan did on his summer vacation?	Pitching a tent, fishing, singing songs
3. Have you ever been camping? With whom did you go camping?	
4. What color was the tent in which Ryan slept?	Red

## Chapter 14

Questions	Answers
1. What happens while Ryan is reading his essay to the class?	An earthquake
2. What did Mrs. Mooney tell the class to do when the room started shaking?	Line up and go outside
3. Did some of the children get sick because of the earthquake?	Yes
4. Have you ever felt an earthquake? What did you do?	
5. Where did the class go during the earthquake?	Outside to the playground

## Chapter 15

Questions	Answers
1. To what city did Beatrice's uncle tell her she would be moving?	Lamont
2. What was the name of Beatrice's dog?	Rusty
3. What did Steve tell Beatrice so she would not be upset about leaving her friends from school?	He would leave a note for Rusty to take to her teacher

## Chapter 16

Questions	Answers
1. What did Steve's note to Ruben say?	That Steve and Beatrice had to go to Lamont to pick crops
2. What was Ruben supposed to do with the note that Steve left for him?	Give it to Mrs. Mooney

## Chapter 17

Questions	Answers
1. What did Mrs. Mooney assign to the class?	Math problems on page 55 of the math book
2. What was Mrs. Mooney thinking about while the class was doing their math homework?	She was wondering if Beatrice would be in school the next day

3. What did Mrs. Mooney think about Beatrice’s essay on her summer vacation?

Mrs. Mooney was impressed by the expressiveness of Beatrice’s writing. She liked Beatrice’s paper the most.

## Epilogue

Questions	Answers
1. Where did Mrs. Mooney go to college?	University of California, Berkley
2. What report did Mrs. Mooney find when she did a search for “child labor laws” on the Internet?	“Fields of Peril” by Human Rights Watch
3. How did Mrs. Mooney feel about what she had read about child farm workers?	She was in shock and upset.
4. How many of Mrs. Mooney’s students worked in the fields?	Eleven
5. Did Ruben give Mrs. Mooney the note that Steve had written to him?	No