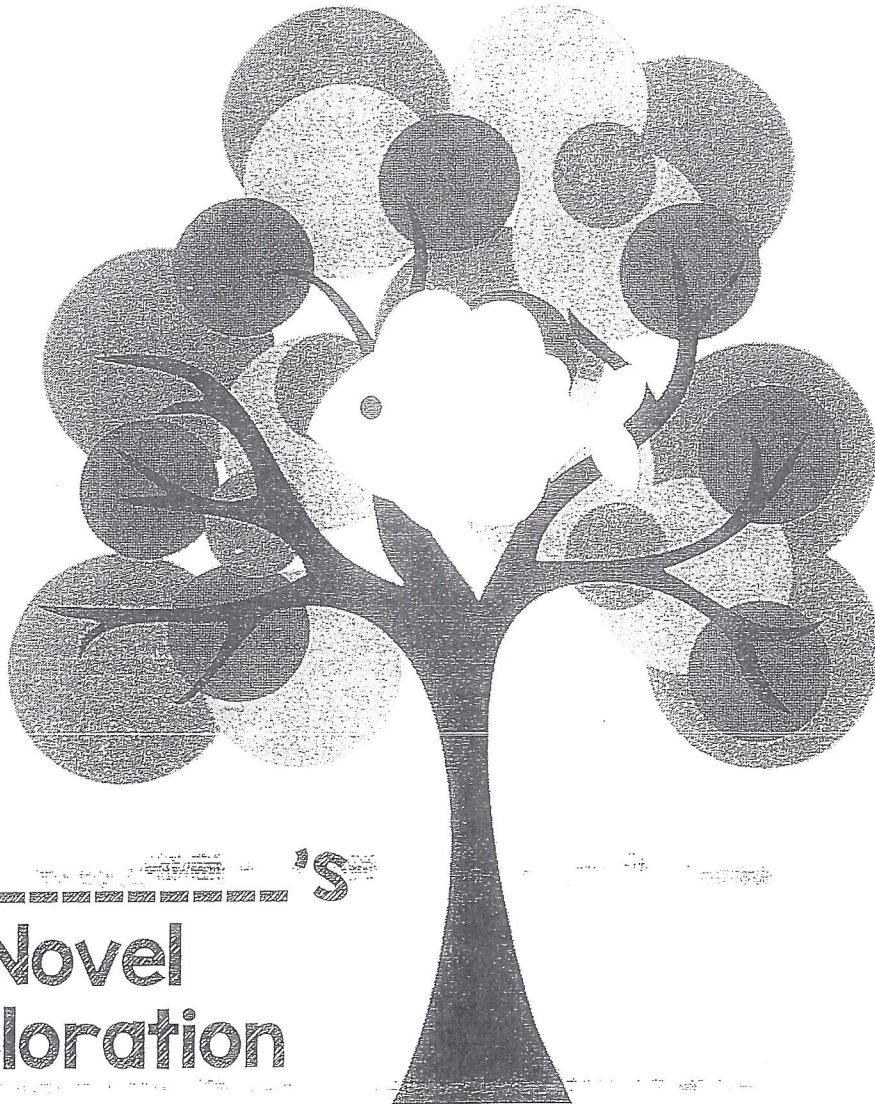
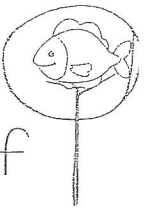


# FISH IN A TREE



Novel  
Exploration

# Who and Where



In the story, Fish in a Tree, we meet a lot of characters. Jot down information about them as you read.

Character	The 411
Ally	
Mr. Daniels	
Shay	
Jessica	
Albert	
Keisha	
Oliver	
Mom	
Travis	
Mrs. Silver	



# Chapters 1-5

Visualize: Draw a picture of the "mind movie" that plays in Ally's head in Chapter 1 when she is supposed to be writing an essay (Ch.1)

...why... why? why, why... why? why, why... why? why, why... why? whywhy... why? why, why...

--	--	--	--

Summarize: In your own words, explain what went wrong with the card that Ally got for Mrs. Hall's class baby shower. (Ch.2)

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Inference: why might Ally prefer being in the Principal's office rather than in her own classroom? (Ch.3)

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Characterization: Describe the people in Ally's Family (Ch.4-5)

Mom

Dad-

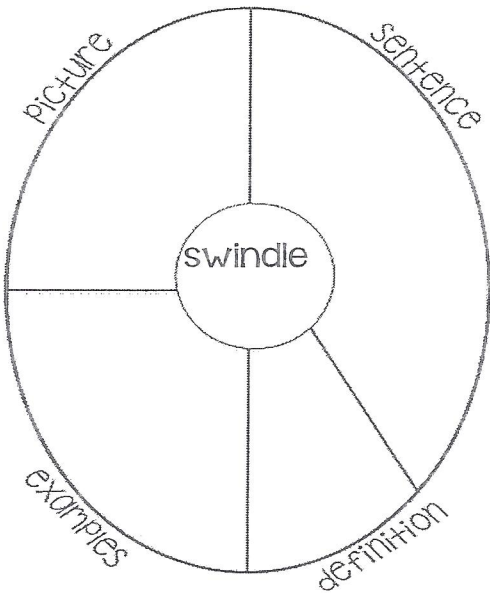
Grandpa-

Travis-

Connection: Ally says that it is impossible to explain to someone else what it is like to live in her world. What do you think she means by this? Have you ever felt this way?

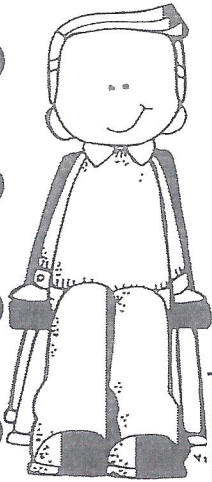
[illegible]

# Chapters 6-10



Word Wise: Explain how Travis was almost *swindled* at the pawn shop. (Ch.6)

Analysis: Ally says that she wishes "people could last as long as coins". What does she mean by this?



Characterization: Describe who Mr. Daniels is and Ally's reaction towards him (Ch.7)

Get out of Jail Free Card

Definition

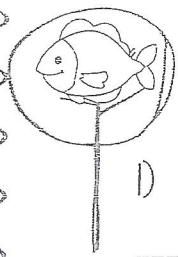
Draw a picture of what this idiom sounds like and then define it.

Word Wise: Why does Ally feel like Mr. Daniels has taken away her "Get out of jail free card"? (Ch.8)

Connection: What did Ally draw in the class writing journal and what did it represent? (Ch.10)

Prediction: Mr. Daniel's said that he is glad that Ally is not invisible. How does this make her feel? Make a prediction of what will happen next?





## Chapters 1-5

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

### Quick Check Reading Comprehension

1) What does Ally Nickerson struggle with at school?

-----  
-----

2) What does Ally write all over her paper when she is supposed to be writing an essay? -----

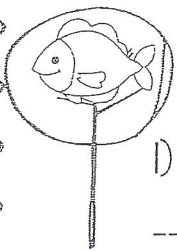
3) What kind of card does Ally accidentally buy her teacher?

-----

4) True or False: Travis is really great at school. -----

5) What does Shay and Jessica tease Ally about?

-----



## Chapters 6-10

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

### Quick Check Reading Comprehension

1) What does Ally notice about Albert's appearance?

-----

2) What does Ally bring to school as her something special to share with the class? -----

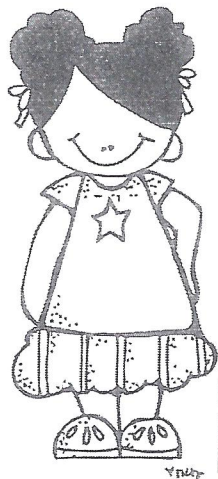
3) The coin that Travis and Ally got at the pawn shop has the date 1933 on it. What is important about this date? -----  
-----

4) Why does Ally hate Mondays? -----

5) What does Mr. Daniels tell Ally about going to the principals office?

-----

# Chapters 11-15



Interpret: Ally accidentally offends Keisha by saying, "I don't mind being your friend". What was she trying to say? (Ch11) \_\_\_\_\_

Summarize: In your own words, why Shay was making fun of Albert. Did Albert mind? (Ch12)

Inference: How do you think Keisha felt when Ally tried to give her half of her flowers at the holiday chorus concert? Explain how this simple action changed their friendship. (Ch13)

Compare & Contrast: Draw a double bubble (or Venn Diagram) to compare how Ally feels about reading and writing to how she felt after she figured out Mr. Daniel's shoe box riddle on Fantastico Friday. (Ch14)



# Chapters 16-20



Inference Why do you think Ally lied to Mr. Daniels about tripping over her cat? (Ch.6)

Interpret: Shay calls Ally, Keisha and Albert's lunch table the "Island of misfit toys". What do you think she means by this? (Ch.17)

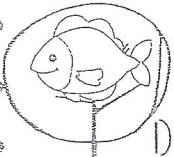
Cause & Effect: Mr. Daniel's asks Keisha to try harder and redo her assignment., how does this make Ally feel and what does she do as a response? (Ch.18)

Opinion:: Albert tells Ally and Keisha where his bruises are from. What do you think about when he says: "*I don't believe in violence. And anyway, it seems to me that big kids would get the blame in a fight.*" (Ch.19)

Connection: Shay has been bullying Ally? Have ever experienced bullying?

## Chapters 11-15

Name: \_\_\_\_\_



### Quick Check Reading Comprehension

1) Why was Albert wearing shoes with the backs cut out?

2) When Mr. Daniels moves the classroom seats around, who does Ally sit by?

3) Why does Mrs. Muldoon yell at Keisha at the Holiday Choir Concert?

4) After Ally solves the Shoe Box Fantastico problem what does Mr. Daniels do?

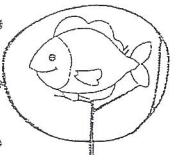
5) Why won't Travis help Ally with her writing homework?

A) He was working      B) He was mad at her

C) He struggles just like she does      D) He thinks she should do it alone

## Chapters 16-20

Name: \_\_\_\_\_



### Quick Check Reading Comprehension

1) To avoid writing Mr. Daniels' essay, what does Ally do?

2) Why does Ally feel like she is a can of soup?

3) Why do Shay and other kids make fun of Albert's shirt?

A) It has holes      B) It says Flint on it

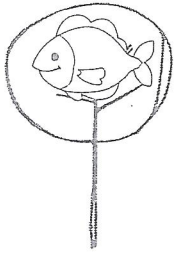
C) It is dirty      D) It is too small

4) Why does Albert have bruises?

5) What does Ally say the difference between a "big brother" and an "older brother" is?



# Chapters 21-25



Inference What do you think the wish was that Ally made at the Butterfly Sanctuary? (Ch21)

Compare & Contrast: Define... ? (Ch23)

lonely

alone

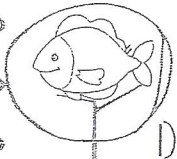
Summarize Who is Roy G. Biv? (Ch.24)

Inference: Why do you think Jessica bought all of those Friendship bracelets from Shay?(Ch.24)

Connection: Ally feels like she got the poetry award out of pity and not because she earned it. Have you ever felt this way? Do you think that Mr. Daniels gave it to her out of pity? Explain. (Ch.25)

## Chapters 21-25

Name: \_\_\_\_\_



### Quick Check Reading Comprehension

1) Why did Ally catch the butterfly?

\_\_\_\_\_

2) Albert tells Ally that purple is the color of?

A) royalty      B) February's birth stone

C) Flint      D) snail snot

3) Why does Ally feel like she won the "Brain

Olympics"? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

4) What is the name of Ally's favorite fiction character?

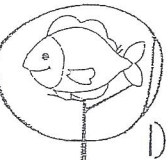
\_\_\_\_\_

5) Why does Ally run out of the room after winning the Poetry Award?

\_\_\_\_\_

## Chapters 26-30

Name: \_\_\_\_\_



### Quick Check Reading Comprehension

1) Where did Ally run and hide after winning the poetry award?

\_\_\_\_\_

2) At Keisha's house, Ally makes words out of what?

A) cookie dough      B) Playdoh

C) paper      D) chess pieces

3) What was Mr. Daniels "Deal of a lifetime"?

\_\_\_\_\_

4) What was the mean thing Shay did to Ally on the fieldtrip?

\_\_\_\_\_

5) Explain the title of the book?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



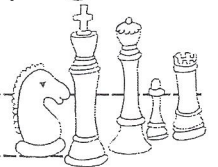
## Chapters 26-30

Interpret: Explain Ally's metaphor about the bike that falls apart whenever she pedals? (Ch26)



Connection: Have you ever felt different? Keisha says, "I'm only different to the people who see with the wrong eyes." Do you agree or disagree? (Ch.26)

Predict: Why do you think Mr. Daniels asked to teach Ally to play chess after school? (Ch.28)



Illustrate: Draw a picture of what happened on the fieldtrip. (Ch.29)

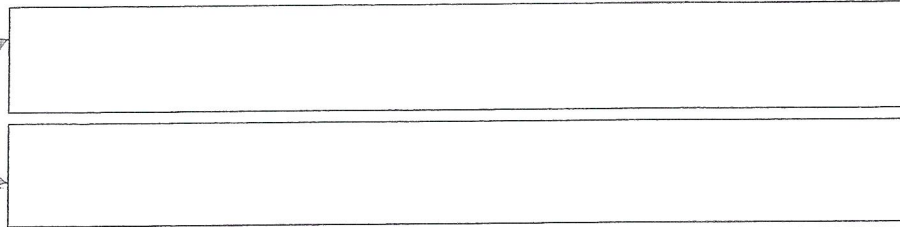
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Word Analysis: Mr. Daniels thinks Ally has *dyslexia*. Explain what this is. (Ch23)

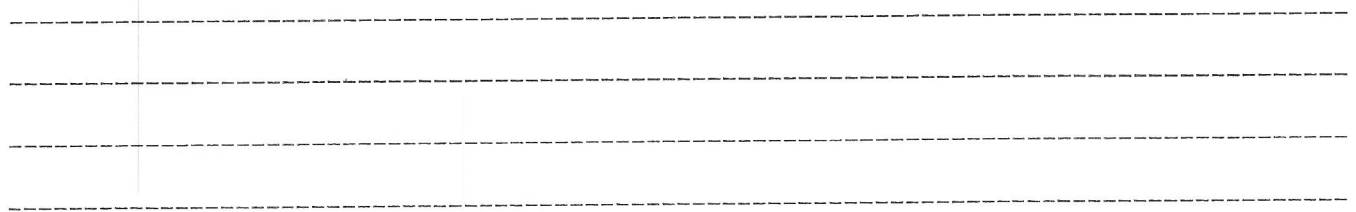
# Chapters 31-35

Cause & Effect: Think about two effects of Ally's dyslexia.

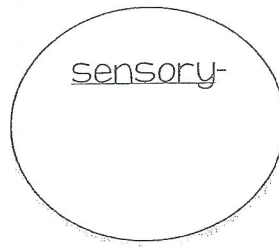
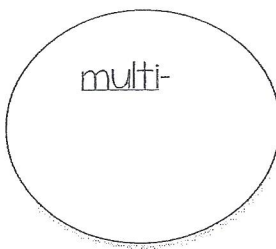
Cause:  
Ally is  
Dyslexic



Infer: Travis says that "There are things he can't learn" What do you think this means? (ch.32)

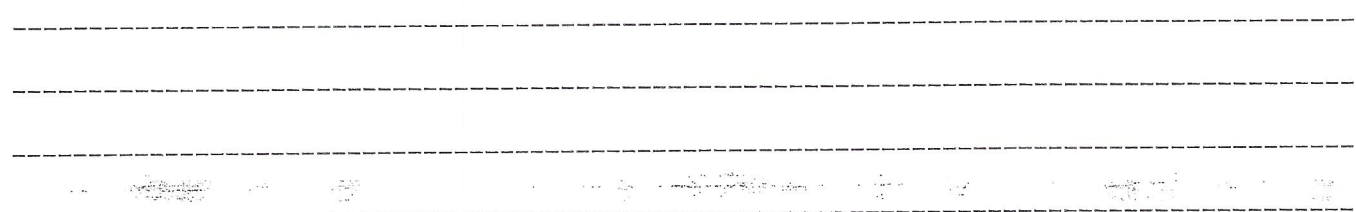


Define: Mr. Daniels uses *multi-sensory* techniques to help Ally learn to read. Break this word apart and define it. (ch.33)



I think multi-sensory means...

Interpret: Ally's grandpa used to say, "Be careful with eggs and words because neither can ever be fixed", explain what this means. (Ch.34)



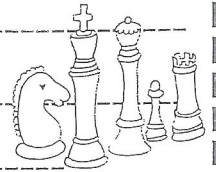
Predict: What do you think Mr. Daniels will do after he reads Ally's note? (ch.35)





# Chapters 36-40

Interpret: Ally compares Chess to life and the classroom. Explain her metaphor (ch36) \_\_\_\_\_



Compare & Contrast: How are these two phrases similar and different? (ch37)

I'm having  
trouble

I can't

Inference: Why do you think Shay nominates Ally? (ch38)

Sequence: Draw a timeline of the Class President Election. (ch38-39)

Cause & Effect: Infer why Shay is a bully and how that effects the class.

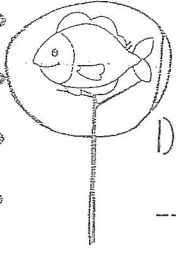
Cause:



Event:  
Shay is a  
bully



Effect:



## Chapters 31-35

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

### Quick Check Reading Comprehension

1) What word did Ally throw the "im" away on?

\_\_\_\_\_

2) Which would Albert rather be in a tank of water with a killer whale or a stone fish? \_\_\_\_\_

3) Who does Ally Skype with?

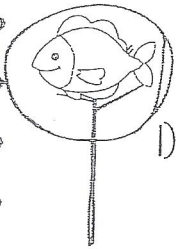
\_\_\_\_\_

4) Why does Ally feel betrayed by Mr. Daniels?

\_\_\_\_\_

5) What does Ally say in her letter to Mr. Daniels after she gets in trouble with the substitute teacher?

\_\_\_\_\_



## Chapters 36-40

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

### Quick Check Reading Comprehension

1) Match the students to the chess pieces?

Albert  
Shay  
Ally  
Keisha

Queen  
Bishop  
King  
Knight

2) What was the point of Mr. Daniels' *A Chicken and A Wolf* problem?  
*To solve the puzzle and to* \_\_\_\_\_

3) Why doesn't anybody else volunteer to run for class president?

\_\_\_\_\_

4) How does Shay's mother react to her losing the election?

\_\_\_\_\_

5) What is the difference between Shay's speech and Ally's speech?

\_\_\_\_\_



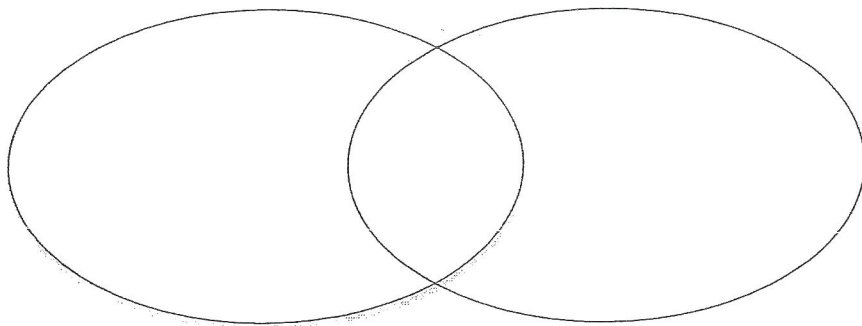
# Chapters 41-45

Inference: Why do you think Shay faked a love letter to Ally from Max(ch41)\_\_\_\_\_

Connection: What would you wish for if you could have an unlimited supply of anything? (ch42)

Characterization: What are some adjectives to describe Keisha and Ally based on their Magnesium and Steel shirt idea?(ch43)

Compare & Contrast: Compare Ally writing "Why?Why?Why? All over her assignment from the beginning of the book to her Book Report project.



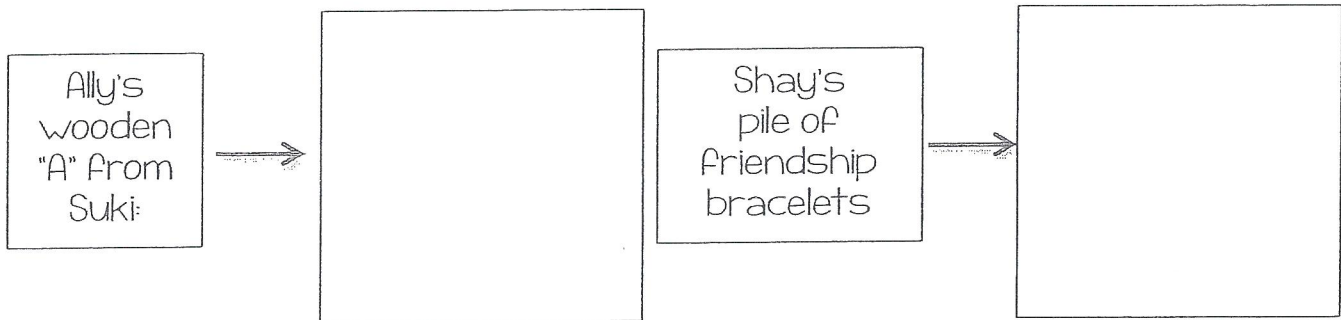
Infer: Do you think Travis is dyslexic too? Why or why not? (Ch45)

# Chapters 46-51

Connection: Albert compares Ally to a The Flying Tiger WW2 planes, Keisha to a baby and himself to pachyderm. Compare yourself to something and explain. (ch46)

Inference: Why do you think that Mr. Daniels assigned the extra credit assignment with the jumbled letters? (ch47)

Compare & Contrast: Both Ally and Shay have something left on their desks. What do you think the wooden A Suki gave Ally means, and what do you think the pile of Friendship bracelets mean? (ch49)

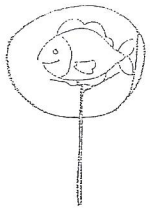


Inference: Why do you think Ally feels sorry for Shay? (ch50)

Predict: If the story were to continue, what do you think will happen next? (ch51)



# Ally~ Character Traits



Provide evidence from the story for each character trait listed. Explain with examples and if needed, include the page number.

Ally is secretive.  
For example,

---

---

---

---

---

Ally is friendly.  
For example,

---

---

---

---

---

Ally is brave.  
For example,

---

---

---

---

---

Ally is persistent.  
For example,

---

---

---

---

---

# Fish in a Tree

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

In complete sentences, explain how each theme developed in the book as a main idea or lesson. Use the page #s to help! ☺

PG. 246

Everyone has struggles to overcome

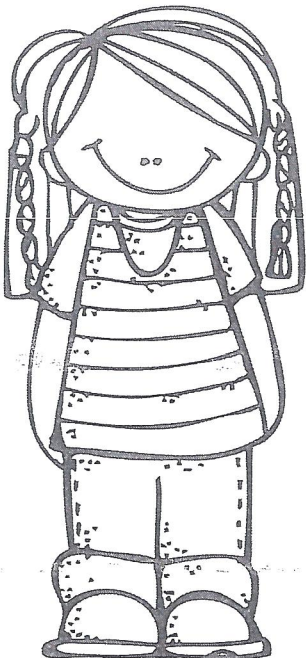
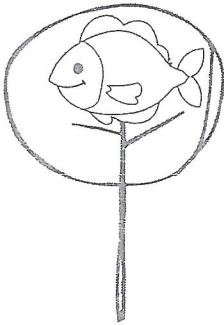
PG. 262

The power of asking for help

Acceptance

Friendship

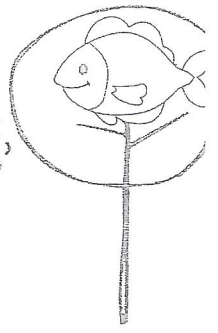
## Themes





Man in a tree

"Everyone is smart in different ways. But if you judge a fish on its ability to climb a tree, it will spend its whole life thinking it's stupid."



Explain what this means and why you think the author chose it for the book's title. Use examples from the text in your explanation.

Use at least 6 complete sentences.

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There is no handwriting or other markings on the paper.