



Title: Ivy + Bean
Author: Annie Barrows
Illustrator: Sophie Blackall

The moment they saw each other, Bean and Ivy knew they wouldn't be friends. But when Bean plays a joke on her sister, Nancy, and has to hide quick. Ivy comes to the rescue, proving that sometimes the best of friends are people never meant to like each other.

Let's Talk

Why didn't Bean want to be friends with Ivy at the beginning of the book? Have your parents suggested you be friends with someone you were not sure about?

Ivy likes to play by herself. Do you like to play by yourself, play with a small group of kids, or get together with a whole neighborhood of kids?

Describe Ivy's room. What is special about your bedroom? Do you collect anything?

What was the messy dog's name in the story? (Fester) Why is that a funny name? What are some other names the author could have chosen? (definition of fester: to putrify or rot.)

Do you have any neighbors like Mrs. Trantz? How did Ivy and Bean manage to get through her yard without having their parents called? What would you have done?

Bean and Nancy fight a lot. Do you think this is normal? Do you think they love each other? What clues does the book give you?

Did the "spell" work the way you expected? What other spells do you think Ivy and Bean might try in the future?

Try This

Pull out some face paint and create crazy faces.

Make magic wands using paint stirrers, glitter, gems, and ribbon.

Have each reader create a map of their bedroom or try making a treasure map for the kids to read and discover treasure in the room they are in! Perhaps the name of the next book?

Online Resources:

Author Annie Barrows has fun activities, book marks and other printable pages on her website:
www.anniebarrows.com

Explore More in the Library

Face Painting by Margaret Lincoln (J 745.5)

Decorate Yourself by Tom Andrich (J745.5)

Magic for Kids by Fay Presto (J 793.8)

Activity TV - Magic (J DVD 791.4572 ACTIVITY MAGIC-1)

The Book of Wizard Craft by Janice Eaton Kilby, Deborah Morgenthal, Terry Taylo (J 745.5)

Lotions, Potions, and Slime : mudpies and more! by Nancy Blakey (J 372.5 Blakey)

Maps David L. Stienecker (J 912.1)

Maps and Globes : Fun, Facts, and Activities by Caroline Arnold (J 912)

There are many Ivy + Bean books in the library. Search in the paperback fiction section under "Barrows" or check out the e-books on the library website.