



Ramona and Her Father

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Introduction:

Ramona just wants everyone to be happy. If only her father would smile and joke again, her mother would look less worried, her sister would be cheerful, and Picky-picky would eat his cat food. But Ramona's father has lost his job, and nobody in the Quimby household is in a very good mood.

Ramona tries to cheer up the family as only Ramona can, but her best efforts just make things worse. But when her father admits he wouldn't trade her for a million dollars, Ramona knows everything is going to work out fine in the end.

Discussion Questions:

1. What changes take place in the Quimby household when Mr. Quimby loses his job in the office of a van-and-storage company? Why does everyone (except Ramona) start to become a little grouchy?
2. Why does Ramona start to practice giggling, saying "Pop-pop-pop" and crunching loudly on food? Why does she tell her second grade teacher, Mrs. Rogers that her stockings are "wrinkled like an elephant's legs"?
3. Why doesn't Ramona want anyone to know how she got burrs stuck in her hair. How does she finally get them out?
4. Usually it's Ramona who has temper tantrums, but when Picky-picky the cat eats part of the jack-o'-lantern for Halloween, Beezus starts an argument with her father. Why?
5. Mr. and Mrs. Quimby think that Ramona is just upset about the ruined jack-o'-lantern, but in fact she's worried about something else. What? Do you think children worry about adults as much as adults worry about children?
6. What does Ramona do after she makes up her mind, in the middle of arithmetic, that she is going to save her father's life? What are some of the signs that she and Beezus put around the house and where do they put them. What is Mr. Quimby's reaction?
7. When Mr. Quimby isn't at home waiting for her after school, Ramona is afraid he has gone away because she was mean to him. Does this turn out to be true?
8. Why do you think Mr. Quimby eventually decides to give up smoking? Is he immediately happy about his decision to quit? Why not?
9. Are the Quimbys a happy family? Are they a perfect family?