



BLAKE

Reading Guide

L.B. Tillit

Purpose

This reading guide will help the reader focus on building vocabulary, strengthen reading fluency, follow the plot, focus on themes, use inferring skills, and discover character growth. It will provide opportunities for readers to engage in authentic discussion while encouraging an understanding of varying perspectives.

Acknowledgements

Thanks to Dr. Tara P. Bacote for inspiring the creation of a reading guide and for her willingness to review over the guide. Thanks to copy editor, Julie Overpeck, who helped produce a quality product, and thanks to Sarah Borhaug, who created the cover.

MY EASY READ BOOKS, LLC
GUIDED READING FOR *BLAKE*, BY L.B. TILLIT
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Chapter 1 Messed Up

Vocabulary

Check out how these words are used in context:

dish out—give to others

give the evil eye—glare at someone

tag along—join/be a part of as a follower

trash talk—when people speak badly about others/put others down

shudder—shake

strides—steps

Questions

Why was Blake at home and not at school? How did his mother feel about this fact? How did Blake feel about it?

Why didn't Blake check his phone?

What did Blake realize could happen between him and his friends since he helped Zonta?

Why had Blake given up talking to Emma Tang-Lee?

Reflection

What do you think Blake meant when he said this about his mother: *She taught me to act as normal as possible. She taught me so no one would treat me differently.* What does this tell you about Blake and his mother's relationship? Discuss.

Chapter 2 Penny

Vocabulary

Check out how these words are used in context:

anxious—worried

dressing—bandage to cover cuts

Questions

How did Blake's body react when he could not put his feelings into words?

Explain how Penny became Blake's half sister?

What do you learn about Blake's father?

Reflections


Blake stated: *Everything was a matter of fact to me.* What do you think he meant?

Do you think Penny and Blake are close (care about each other a lot)? Explain.

Chapter 3 Flags of the World

Vocabulary

Check out how these words are used in context:

crescent—a curved shape 

MCJROTC— Marine Corps Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps is a program in high schools that students can join that prepares them for a career in the Marines, a part of the U.S. military.

Questions

How were Blake and Kyle different?

What game did Penny and Blake like to play?

Reflections

Blake loves the flags of the world and all their details. How might this intense interest make him stand out from other teens?

Do you agree with Blake's mother that he should never share what he knows about flags with others? Explain.

Chapter 4 Posts

Vocabulary

Check out how these words are used in context:

2—to, too, two

53X—sex

b—be

nw—no way

omg—oh my gosh/God/goodness

peeps—people

plz—please

r—are

rager—big party

restraining order—a legal document that forces someone to stay away from someone else

shook up—really upset

sux—sucks

tbh—to be honest

ttyl—talk to you later

turnt—to be high or drunk

u—you

Questions

What did the posts reveal about what happened to Carlos?

What did Ozzie's texts reveal about what happened to Zonta?

Reflection

How was the mood of the posts different from the mood of Ozzie's texts? Do you think Blake reacted differently to them? Discuss.

Chapter 5 Tuesday

Vocabulary

Check out how these words are used in context:

assault—attack

caf—short for cafeteria/lunchroom

creep—strange/weird

expelled—removed from the school (usually not allowed to return)

freak—not normal/strange

harass—to bother/threaten/bully

labeled—marked/named

obsessed—think about all the time

stowed—put away

suspended—removed from the school for a specific period of time as a form of punishment

Questions

Why did Lilly speak to Blake at the beginning of class?

Why did Chastity think Blake was a freak, and how did Blake deal with it?

What did their teacher, Ms. Williams, tell the class about Carlos's future at Hancock High?

Reflections

Ms. Williams told the class, "We have no tolerance for sexual assault at this school." Why do you think she said that, and do you think her little "talk" was helpful? Explain.

Why do you think Blake was the *most* worried when the teacher said that Carlos would not play football for Hancock High anymore?

Chapter 6 Lunch

Vocabulary

Check out how these words are used in context:

shifted—moved/changed

Questions

What did Blake think would happen if he sat at his normal lunch table?

When Blake spotted his friends, what stopped him from joining them?

Reflection

The last line of the chapter reads: *I decided to fill the rest of my time taking deep breaths and counting ceiling tiles.* What does this say about how Blake was feeling? Explain.

Chapter 7 Business

Vocabulary

Check out how these words are used in context:

budget—a plan put together that helps balance income (what someone makes) with expenses (what someone has to pay others)

prejudice—a negative feeling or dislike towards a person or a group of people that is based on judgement/opinion rather than reason

racist—showing prejudice and hatred toward a specific racial or ethnic group

stereotyping—when someone makes a statement about a whole group of people that is not true for everyone in that group, or when someone has a set idea about a person because they belong to a specific group, but that idea is wrong

Questions

Emma wanted to work with Blake on a class project. Why did this not make sense to Blake?

How did Blake feel about being physically close to other people?

How did Blake deal with eye contact?

Reflections

Blakes stated that his mother taught him: *just because a girl talked to me, it didn't mean she liked me.*

Why do you think his mother taught him this? What does this tell you about Blake's ability to read people's actions and body language?

Emma said to Blake, "This is what they just did to you." Then she flipped her pencil to the other end and completely erased Blake's name. What do you think Emma was trying to get Blake to understand? Do you think she was right? Explain.

Chapter 8

Vocabulary

Check out how these words are used in context:

compete— be a part of the sport and go up against others

Question

How would Blake be allowed to compete with the scratches on his arm?

Reflection

What is your first impression of Coach Miller?

Chapter 9 Practice

Vocabulary

Check out how these words are used in context:

brutal—very hard

pin—a wrestling move when both shoulders or shoulder blades are held to the floor mat for 2 seconds

reversal—in wrestling, a move where the wrestler, who is on the bottom, quickly moves to be on the top. This move will earn the wrestler points.

tournament—when many teams come together to compete

tri—in wrestling, a meet where three teams come together to compete

Question

What did Tank Jee do that made everyone laugh?

Reflections

What do you learn about Blake's wrestling skills? Why might someone be surprised about his skills?

Do you think Coach Miller was right to be angry with Tank for joking around during his match with Owen? Explain.

Who was Blake's new wrestling partner, and how was this different from normal wrestling practices?

Do you think this will be a problem for Blake? Explain.

Chapter 10 Off

Vocabulary

Check out how these words are used in context:

crouched—squat/bend the knees to stand lower to the floor

headgear—ear protection that wraps over the head and under the chin

jutted—shot out/stretched out

match—when two wrestlers wrestle each other in a competition

meet—when two or more wrestling teams gather to compete

navel—middle of the belly

neutral position—when the wrestlers face each other (while still standing)

schooled—taught a lesson

shrill—high pitch

stance—the way someone stands

Questions

Why did Blake not want to tell Imani about the flashbacks that were causing him to wrestle poorly?

Why did Blake run out of the gym?

Blake said to Imani, “I don’t want to hurt you.” What did Imani suddenly realize? What connection did she finally make? How did she help him work through it?

Reflection

What do you think Blake’s friends were doing to him? Discuss.

Chapter 11 Out

Vocabulary

Check out how these words are used in context:

perched—sitting up high on something, like a bird sits, or is perched, on a tree branch

Questions

Why did Blake smile and wave at Carlos when he saw him on the bus? Why did he quickly change his response?

What did Blake realize about the words, *shut up Blake*?

Carlos told Blake that he got off easy as long as he didn't get into more trouble, but that the real problem was that the school expelled him and that Zonta took out a restraining order on him. Why did this information give Blake hope?

Reflections

Why do you think Blake said, "No," to Carlos? Why did Blake's "no" surprise him?

Carlos told Blake, "There are so many ways I can take you down." What did he mean? Discuss.

Chapter 12 Lost

Vocabulary

Check out how these words are used in context:

budge—move

desperate—in need of help because all seems lost

Questions

What was Lilly doing in Blake's apartment building?

Lilly looked at Blake's brand name clothes after he told her he lived in the building. What did Blake explain to Lilly about his clothes?

Reflections

What do Lilly's interactions with her cousin and Blake tell you about Lilly's living situation?

Why do you think it was important to Lilly that Blake promised not to tell others about their meeting? Do you think Blake will keep his promise? Explain.

Chapter 13 One Star

Vocabulary

Check out how these words are used in context:

ditch—to drop or cast aside

identical—the same

pervert—someone who is not normal/not acceptable in their thinking about sexual matters

sick—1. awful 2. awesome/cool

Questions

Why did Blake like the flag from Liberia?

What shocking piece of news did Kyle tell Blake about Carlos? How did Blake respond to the news?

Reflections

Up to this point, Blake thought Kyle did not want to have anything to do with him. But what did Kyle's actions and words reveal to about Kyle? Explain.

At the end of the chapter, what did Blake say was his own fault? Do you agree with him? Discuss.

Chapter 14 Ozzie

Vocabulary

Check out how these words are used in context:

lecture—give a lesson, but in this case in a scolding way

Questions

Why did Lilly not look at or talk to Blake? How was her reason different than the others in the classroom who ignored Blake?

Who did speak to Blake, and why did that surprise him?

What didn't Ozzie know when he sat with Blake at lunch? When Ozzie found out, how did he react to the rumors?

Reflections

In book 1, *Ozzie*, Ozzie struggled with standing up to Carlos and Gavin when they said and did things with which Ozzie disagreed. From Ozzie's actions in this chapter, how had Ozzie changed? Explain.

How did Ozzie's words and actions impact Blake? Explain.

Chapter 15 Tri-Meet

Vocabulary

Check out how these words are used in context:

mouth guard—a piece of plastic that fits into the mouth to protect the teeth and tongue

period—two minutes in a wrestling match

singlet—a tight, one-piece, stretchy uniform for wrestling

unison—at the same time

team hype—when the team gets together before a sporting event and gets excited

triumphant—on top/having the victory

Questions

What helped calm Blake's nerves before the wrestling started?

Why was Blake's mother not at the meet?

Reflection

Blake stated: *It seemed all teens had random cash tucked in their pockets to buy a soda or burger. It wasn't random money to us.* What do you think he means by random money? How does Blake think money looks different to him and his family? Discuss.

Chapter 16 Pinned

Vocabulary

Check out how these words are used in context:

double leg—in wrestling, a move where a wrestler who faces their opponent moves in to grab the opponent's two legs and then forces them to the ground

Questions

Why was Blake having a hard time wrestling Jenna, the female wrestler on the other team?

What helped Blake focus back on wrestling so he could beat Jenna?

Reflection

During the match, Gavin and the others did not pay attention to Blake's wrestling match. At another point, Tank and Adam began to pay attention to Blake's wrestling. How did individual attention from others play a role in how Blake performed during his match? Discuss.

Chapter 17 Forfeit

Vocabulary

Check out how these words are used in context:

forfeit—to let someone else win, usually a penalty (punishment/cost) for not following a rule. In wrestling, a match is forfeit when there is not a wrestler in a specific weight class. Those points for that match automatically go to the team that has the wrestler present.

counting the lights—in wrestling, when someone is knocked on their back and looks up at the ceiling lights

Question

Why did the other team forfeit Blake's match? Why was Blake relieved?

Reflection

How did Tank change the mood? Do you think Tank plays an important role on this team? Explain.

Chapter 18 Stew

Question

What was Blake's job at Food Time Grocery?

Reflection

Why was it hard for Blake to just follow Stew's directions to drop what he was doing and go do something else? Discuss.

Chapter 19 Last Minute

Vocabulary

Check out how these words are used in context:

catered food—food and drinks provided for events

clients—people who hire your company to do jobs/work for them

upscale—more expensive/fancy

Questions

What job was Blake asked to help do?

Why did Blake's chest tighten when he heard that they were headed to Tang-Lee Fabrics? Explain.

Chapter 20 Help

Questions

Why did everyone laugh when Blake said he lied?

How did Blake still feel about Emma? But what did he think that Emma felt toward him?

Reflections

What did Emma ask Blake that shocked him? Do you think it was okay that Emma asked the question? How do you think Blake handled the situation? Discuss.

At the end of the chapter Blake stated: *She was done messing with me. I hoped she never asked me that question again because she was right. As always. I knew exactly what she meant.* What do you think Blake meant? What do you think he was afraid of?

Chapter 21 Clients

Question

When Blake met his father at Tang-Lee Fabrics, he called him Cole P. Dockins. Why were those Blake's first words out of his mouth to his father?

Chapter 22

Vocabulary

Check out how these words are used in context:

chugged—took large gulps of a drink and drank it quickly

wit—humor

Questions

How did Blake react to Cole P. Dockins?

Reflections

Blake often states *I couldn't tell* when he talks about someone else's actions or face expression. What did Blake rely on when he tried to figure out other people's emotions? Discuss.

What was your first impression of Emma's relationship with her mother?

What was upsetting/offensive about Cole P. Dockins's statement to Blake?

Why did Emma laugh when Blake told Mr. Dockins the name of the cheesecake? What message do you think Blake was sending the man? Discuss.

Chapter 23 Nobody

Vocabulary

Check out how these words are used in context:

comeback—a quick response to someone

sick—1. awful 2. awesome/cool

Question

Why was Emma impressed with Blake’s “perfect comeback” to his father? How did Blake respond to Emma’s compliment?

Reflections

What was revealed about Emma’s family when she compared Blake’s father to her own parents? Explain.

Blake stated: *So I was really nobody to everybody.* What do you think he meant? Discuss.

Blake stated: *I wondered if Mom’s rules needed to be broken. Maybe I should tell people. Maybe.* What did he mean, and do you agree with him? Discuss.

Chapter 24

Vocabulary

Check out how these words are used in context:

mush—when something solid has become wet and soft

vouch for—to put in a good word for someone else/say they are telling the truth or that they are a good person

Question

Why was Lilly at Food Time Grocery, and how did Blake help her?

Reflections

Do you think Blake broke his promise to Lilly when he told Stew a little about Lilly's problems? Or do you think he was right when he said that Stew didn't count?

Blake stated at the end of the chapter: *Maybe now she wouldn't ignore me at school.* What does this reveal about what matters the most to Blake at that moment? Discuss.

Chapter 25 For Real

Vocabulary

Check out how these words are used in context:

autism/on the spectrum—Autism Spectrum Disorder is a neurological (dealing with the nerves) and developmental (how people develop, grow, learn, think, interact) disorder. It impacts people in different ways and some more intensely than others, which is why it is often referred to as “being on the spectrum.” Most often the disorder impacts how a person with autism interacts and communicates with other people. It often impacts behavior and learning as well.

throw shade—say negative things about someone (but friends often will joke/tease each other this way)

Questions

Who sat with Blake and Ozzie at lunch? How did Blake and Ozzie react to her?

What did Blake reveal to Ozzie and Emma? How did they react?

Reflections

Emma said, “To be real, I’ve been told that I’m a low-functioning Tang-Lee.” Why did she say this? Do you think it helped the mood? Explain.

Imani’s reaction to the news was, “About time.” What does this tell you about Imani’s friendship with Blake?

What did Emma, Ozzie, and Imani do that convince Blake to share his “secret”?

What change was Blake beginning to see in himself?

Chapter 26

Vocabulary

Check out how these words are used in context:

deserve—to earn something

Question

Why had Blake's secret not spread yet to all the guys at wrestling?

Reflection

Imani told Blake that the guys "didn't deserve to know" Blake's secret. How did this impact Blake?

Explain.

Chapter 27 Bus 51

Questions

Why were Carlos, Gavin, Owen, and Hunter waiting at the first bus stop?

What did the four boys do, and how did Blake respond to them? How did the people on the bus respond?

Reflection

Do you agree with the bus driver when he tells Blake that the guys must be threatened by Blake?

Chapter 28 Zonta

Vocabulary

Check out how these words are used in context:

lurking—hiding/sneaking around/when someone is waiting around or hiding in a sneaky way

Question

What did Blake still feel guilty about when it came to Carlos's attack on Zonta? What did Zonta say to make Blake feel better?

Reflections

Blake noticed one of Mateo's earbuds hanging down and wondered if Mateo sometimes listened in when he pretended not to. Do you agree with Blake? Discuss Mateo's behavior and possible reasons for his behavior.

What did Emma record with her phone, and how might her recording help Blake?

Blake stated: *I realized that Lilly was like me in one way. There were things we didn't want others to know about us.* Do you agree with Blake? Explain.

Chapter 29 Slow

Reflection

Blake stated: *I wasn't as afraid anymore. Instead, I was curious.* What did he mean? Discuss where you see these changes taking place.

Chapter 30 Breaking Rules

Question

Why was Blake's mother upset with Blake?

Reflections

Do you agree with Kyle that the rules throughout the years had not worked? Explain.

Do you agree with Kyle that Blake should share his knowledge of the flags of the world with others? Explain.

Chapter 31 Conference

Vocabulary

Check out how these words are used in context:

duffle bag—a bag shaped like a cylinder

Questions

When the Hancock High wrestling team saw Carlos, he was all dressed in red. What did his red clothes mean, and how did he act towards his old team?

What did Tank and Imani do to help Blake?

Reflections

Gavin went straight up to Carlos, but he had to wave at Hunter and Owen to come join him, which they did, but slowly. What does this tell you about Gavin's friendship with Carlos? What does this tell you about Owen's and Hunter's friendships with Carlos?

About what do you think Coach Miller might be upset?

Chapter 32 Legit

Vocabulary

Check out how these words are used in context:

in my corner—on my side, supporting me

legit—allowed/legal

seeded—in wrestling, how a wrestler is ranked based on their season’s record to determine how they are placed on a bracket for competition

officials—people in charge of the rules. Referees can be officials.

Questions

Why did Tank tell Blake, “I got your back”?

Why was Coach Miller angry that Carlos was wrestling for Hemby?

Reflection

Why did Blake think Carlos could not wrestle against him? What would need to happen for Carlos to be able to wrestle Bake? What do you think will happen?

Chapter 33 Sides

Vocabulary

Check out how these words are used in context:

scolding—when someone gives someone an angry talk about something the other person has done/
reprimand

screw your heads on straight—start thinking clearly

Question

What did Coach Miller mean when he told Gavin, Hunter, and Owen they needed to decide which team they were on?

Reflection

What “rule” had Coach Miller broken? Why was this important for Blake to see and hear? Discuss.

Chapter 34 Owen

Questions

Why was Carlos able to wrestle for Hemby?

What did Owen tell Blake and the others sitting on the bleachers about Carlos?

Reflections

Since Owen's last name was Hemby, why did Tank yell, "He doesn't want to be called a Hemby Hawk"? But how did Owen handle this comment? What does Owen's response tell you about him? Discuss.

In chapter 27, the bus driver, Pedro, told Blake that he must be a threat to the guys. What did Owen tell Blake about Carlos that finally explained how Carlos saw Blake as a threat? Does this match your earlier thoughts? Explain.

How were Blake and Owen more alike than Blake realized? Discuss.

Chapter 35 The Match

Question

Why did Blake think that he needed Imani to be at his wrestling match? What did she tell him to get him to be okay with her not being by his side?

Reflections

How did Carlos try to get Blake to be afraid of wrestling him? Did it work? Explain.

Do you think Carlos can beat Blake? What do you think it will take for Blake to beat Carlos? Discuss.

Chapter 36 Headgear

Reflection

Why did Coach Miller tell the referee that Blake's headgear was loose? How was he trying to help Blake? Do you think it will work? Discuss.

Chapter 37 Control

Vocabulary

Check out how these words are used in context:

sizing up and down—trying to guess the next move, figuring out what someone else is up to

Question

The match was going well for Blake until Carlos did what?

Reflection

Who was cheering for Blake? Do you think it mattered to Blake? Discuss.

Chapter 38 Messed Up

Vocabulary

Check out how these words are used in context:

athletic trainer—a person who has medical skills to manage athletes' injuries at sports events

cradle—in wrestling, a move where the wrestler grabs one arm around their opponent's neck while looping their other arm under the opponent's knee. The goal is to bring both hands together, which causes the opponent's leg to move up and one arm to be trapped. There are many versions.

Questions

What did Carlos mean when he said, "I remember this"? How did it impact Blake?

What did Carlos do to Blake's arm that caused the match to stop again? How did this action impact Blake?

Reflections

Why did Gavin and Hunter suddenly come over and speak with Blake and Coach Miller? What did they tell them that Carlos was planning to do? Blake told them he did not trust them. Do you agree with Blake that he cannot trust them? Discuss.

What role did logic and rules play in the way Blake tried to process what was happening? Do you think this helped or hurt Blake? Explain.

Chapter 39 Calm

Vocabulary

Check out how these words are used in context:

fireman's carry—in wrestling, when the wrestler moves in to their opponent and manages to roll them over their shoulder and land the opponent with their back against the mat

penalty—punishment/cost/fine: in this case a point or points can be lost if someone does something against the rules

unnecessary roughness—when a wrestler attacks too hard/uses a move where someone could be hurt

Question

What did Carlos continue doing to Blake during their wrestling match that caused people to keep “booing”?

Reflections

What did Gavin and Hunter do that caused Carlos to become angry? Do you think their actions played a role in Blake's win? Explain.

Blake suddenly remembered what Coach had told him: that Blake's understanding of logic and rules was what made him a good wrestler. How did this become Blake's strength in his match against Carlos?

Even though Blake came in first in his weight class for the whole conference, why do you think that Blake's first match against Carlos was the match the wrestling team celebrated the most?

Chapter 40 Worth It

Question

The match between Blake and Carlos meant something to both Lilly and Blake. What did each character say made the match worth it?

Reflection

Blake turned the question on Lilly and asked her if being hungry and not asking for help was worth it. How did Lilly respond, and what does this tell you about Lilly? Discuss.

Chapter 41 Sorry

Vocabulary

Check out how these words are used in context:

regrets—things a person wishes they had or had not done

Question

Why was it important to Blake to apologize one more time to Zonta? What did he want her to know that he felt she did not hear the first time?

Reflections

What did Blake mean when he said that Zonta's injuries would take longer to heal than his own? Do you agree? Explain.

When Zonta told Blake that Carlos's attack was not Blake's fault, he responded that it was not her fault either. Why do you think this mattered so much to Zonta?

Do you believe that Lilly really thought of herself as her *own woman* and that she had *nothing* to worry about? Discuss.

Chapter 42 Just Nice

Question

What did Emma say that confused Blake?

Reflections

Do you think Mateo has changed any in his interaction with Blake? Explain.

Do you think Blake was right that he needed to be careful not to show Emma that he liked her? Explain.

Chapter 43 Fireman

Reflections

Why did Ozzie move away from the lunch table? Do you agree with him? Explain.

Blake told Gavin to “shut up” when Gavin started making a mean comment about Blake eating lunch with Emma. How does Tank’s response, “Don’t mess with the fireman,” describe how Blake’s relationship with the guys had changed? Discuss.

Chapter 44 Friends

Questions

Why did Blake apologize to Billy for something that happened a long time ago?

Blake dared to speak to everyone at the table about the many things he knew about flags since his brother, Kyle, had told him people would like it. Was Kyle right? Explain.

Reflections

Blake stated that he hoped there were more people like Billy. What did he mean?

How had sharing his knowledge of flags changed Blake's world? Discuss.

Chapter 45 New

Reflections

At the end, Blake still believed Emma just liked him as a friend. Do you think Blake was right? Explain.

Why did Blake love the Kiribati flag? Explain what you think he meant by “moving on.” Do you agree with him? Explain.

How had Blake’s life changed? Name at least two big things that had changed for Blake. What do you think was the most important change? Discuss.