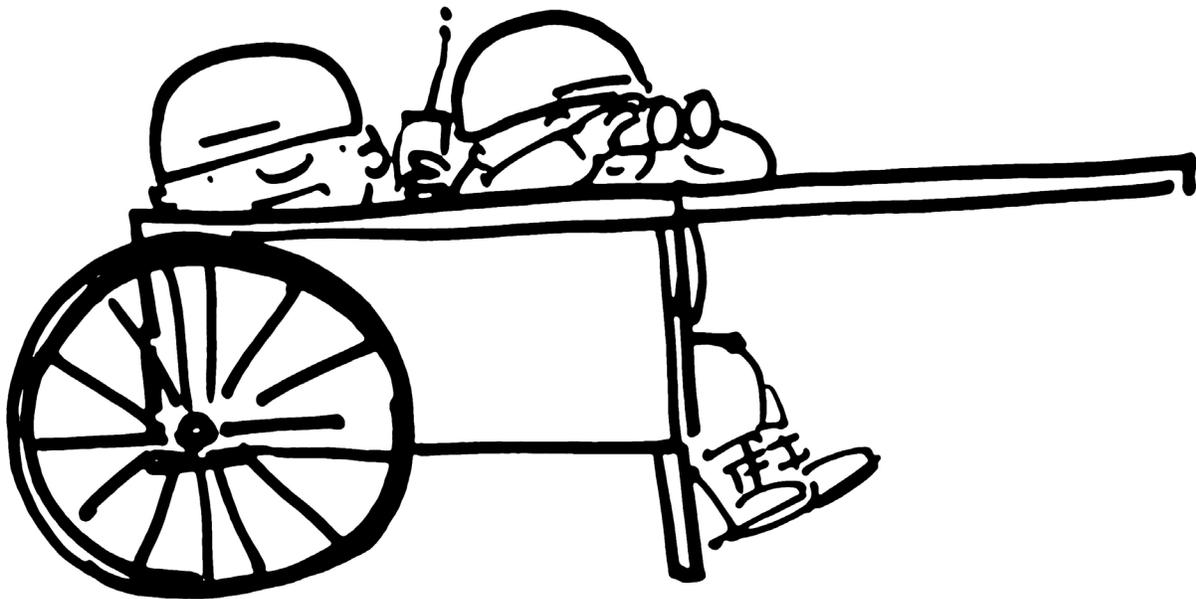


# The Pushcart War

## Reading Guide

by David Kohl

For the book by Jean Merrill



LOGOS PRESS  
Elementary Literature Series

# Suggestions For Use

This literature guide is designed to be completed by a fifth grade student over the course of one semester. Students may certainly read more than the five books contained in this guide if they are so inclined. Five required books would be a reasonable goal for a school semester, but a lot depends on how much time - if any - you spend on projects, how much time daily you devote to reading, and what else you do in your reading program. For best results, parents may read and discuss the books and the questions with their students.

Books on the fifth grade literature list vary greatly in degree of difficulty. Your students may find some books harder to grasp than others.

Questions fall into three basic levels: literal, inferential, and evaluative; or, as someone put it, “on the lines”, “between the lines”, and “beyond the lines”. Some literal level questions have one right answer, but most questions have more possibilities.

Our typical reading period is about an hour long. First, someone reads aloud to the class for 15 minutes from a book not on the literature list. It could be related to something we are studying in history, or it could be just for fun. For the remaining 45 minutes students read and answer the comprehension questions for one of the books on our literature list. If they finish early, they read a book of their choice.

Some editions of some books have no chapter numbers, so you may have to number them yourself.

A typical weekly cycle includes four days of new assignments; the fifth day is a catch-up day for students who need the extra time, or a free reading day for those who don't.

I require thorough, accurate answers in complete sentences, and I grade on content - which should include style - and mechanics. The questions should be thought of as more short essay than short answer.

Here are the four vocabulary steps used throughout this guide:

## **Vocabulary: The Four Steps**

- A. Find the vocabulary word; write it in context.
- B. Guess the meaning from context; write it.
- C. Write the dictionary definition next.
- D. Finally, use the word in a sentence of your own.

Enjoy your books!

David Kohl  
Moscow, ID  
January 2002

**The Pushcart War**  
by Jean Merrill

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Chapters 1 - 6**

1. What's the setting (time and place) of the book?

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2. What happened during the "daffodil massacre?"

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3. What were people unhappy about in chapter 6?

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4. What trouble did a truck cause for Wenda Gambling, the movie star?

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5. Do the four vocabulary steps with **massacre**.

- A. \_\_\_\_\_
  - B. \_\_\_\_\_
  - C. \_\_\_\_\_
  - D. \_\_\_\_\_
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# **Answer Key**

## The Pushcart War

### Chapters 1 - 6

1. What's the setting (time and place) of the book? *The time was early 1986; the place was downtown New York City.*

2. What happened during the "daffodil massacre?"

*Morris the Florist refused to move his pushcart for Mack's truck, so Mack rammed the pushcart, scattered daffodils everywhere, and knocked Morris into a barrel.*

3. What were people unhappy about in chapter 6?

*The trucks increased in size, traffic grew worse, and the city became one big traffic jam.*

4. What trouble did a truck cause for Wenda Gambling, the movie star?

*Wenda got stuck behind a truck with DANGER signs on it. She did not dare pass the truck and accidentally followed it 50 miles outside the city. She had to spend the night in a log cabin.*

5. (Vocabulary)

### Chapters 7 - 9

1. What was Wenda Gambling's remark? *"Well, I think that there are too many trucks and that the trucks are too big."*

2. What happened as a result of it?

*Before the program was off the air, over five thousand viewers had called the station to say that they agreed with Wenda Gambling.*

3. At the secret meeting of The Three, what do the truckers decide is the problem, and what do they want to do about it?

*They decided that pushcarts are the problem, and that the pushcarts had to go.*

4. Do you agree with them? Explain. *opinion*

5. How do the pushcart owners react to the attacks and accusations against them?

*The owners were insulted and offended. Maxie Hammerman was so angry he threw a hammer through his own shop window.*

6. How would you have reacted, and why? *opinion*