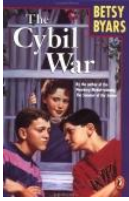


Passages

Reading Level 5



Title: The Cybil War

Author: Betsy Byars

Sample From The Book

Simon was at his desk, slumped, staring at the dull wood. Someone had once carved "I hate school" in the wood, and over the years had worked on the letters so that now they were as deep as a motto in stone.

Simon sighed. His teacher, clipboard in hand, was choosing the cast of a nutrition play. She had already cast Tony Angotti as the dill pickle, which meant that Simon, another of her non-favorites, would probably be the Swiss cheese. The thought of himself in a yellow box full of holes made him miserable. He had never been one for costumes - even at Halloween he limited himself to a mask - and now this. Well, he would just have to be absent that day.

Miss McFawn cast Laura Goode and Melissa Holbrook as the green beans.

"Good casting," Tony Angotti said. "You guys look like green beans when you turn sideways."

Simon smiled.

"Frontways you look like spaghetti."

Simon laughed, and Laura Goode hit him on the arm with her music book.

"I didn't say it," Simon protested.

"You laughed."

He turned away. "Violence is not characteristic of the green bean," he said coldly. His arm hurt but he refused to rub it.



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