

A Cactus Attacked Us - Emotion Hold Up Cards and Character Hold Up Cards

Prepare students for reading the book by having students create Emotion Hold Up cards. Use the boxes below to have students illustrate the emotions listed. The teacher or students can add cards as you read the story to demonstrate their connection with the characters and the emotion.

Introduce the characters of the story and either use the character images or student illustrated character images to help keep characters and names clear as they hear the story.

During reading have students hold up a character and corresponding emotion. For older students, have them keep track of the emotion/character connections to see which emotions are connected to which characters most often.

After Reading - Have a discussion at the end to talk about character traits, how a character's emotions stayed the same or changed, and what caused a character's emotions.

Core Standards - Language Standards: Use knowledge of language and its conventions when writing, speaking, reading or listening;-choose words and phrases for effect

[References](#)

Glossary: **Onomatopoeia:** word that phonetically imitates, resembles or suggests the sound that it describes; adds vividness and realism to writing and engages the reader's sense of sound

Emotion Hold Up Card Sample:

Angry	Scared	Confused	In love
Sad	Betrayed	Lonely	Heartbroken

Character Hold Up Card Sample:

Beet Boys	Spike	Wild Dill	Pickled Pete Poupon
Petunia Poupon	Sweet Baby Gherkin	Coffee Girl	Giant Rat
Citizens of Pickle town	Turtle	Sun	

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A Cactus Attacked Us - Fun with Words!

Authors enjoy playing with words and the way words sound. In this story, the author uses words that sound like other words or that aren't usually used as character names to include humor in the story. See how many of these examples of puns or play on words you can find as you read or listen to this story.

Draw what the normal meaning of the word is or looks like and then draw what the meaning or character looks like in this story.

Word/Phrase:	Normal Meaning of the Word:	What the word is or looks like in the story:
beat and beet		
sweet baby gherkin		
wild dill		
spike		

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A Cactus Attacked Us - Onomatopoeia

Authors use words that sound like or suggest the sound it describes to add excitement to writing and engage the reader's sense of sound. This is called *onomatopoeia*. Onomatopoeia plays a large role in parts of this book. Find examples of onomatopoeia, record them here, and explain how they are used in this story. Use interesting fonts as you record your words! Make your words look the way they sound!

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A Cactus Attacked Us - Characters Cross-Over Between Stories

As you read more and more of Author Alan St. Jean's books, you may find that he includes characters from previous books in his later books. What characters can you find in A Cactus Attacked Us that you find in earlier books? Can you remember which books those characters were in originally? (Hint, you might find cross-over characters between more books than just **A Cactus Attacked Us**!)

Books

Cross-Over Characters

		
		
		
		
		

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