

THE SWEETEST FIG: *Teacher Guide*

Before Reading:

- Make a prediction based on the cover. Who do you think the man is? What can you predict about him based on his clothing?
- Predict what you think the story will be about based on the title, *The Sweetest Fig*.

During Reading:

- Have the students complete the Focus Your Thoughts printable on page 3 while you are reading.
- Page 2: Bastille Day is a national holiday in France where the citizens of France remember the beginning of the French Revolution.
- What have we learned about Monsieur Bibet so far? What kind of pet owner is he? How do you know?

Page 3:

- Based on the clues in the text, what are francs?
- Why do you think Bibet smiles when he tells the old woman the tooth must come out?

Page 6:

- Predict: Do you think the figs are magical as the woman claims?

Page 7:

- What additional evidence does this page provide about Bibet as a pet owner?

Page 9:

- How does the graphic of Marcel make you feel? Why do you think the author included this illustration?

Page 10:

- What additional evidence supports the idea that Bibet is a terrible pet owner?

Page 11:

- Why do you think this happened? Support your inference with evidence from the text.

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Page 13:

- Sacre bleu is a French expression of surprise.
- Predict: What do you think the rest of his dream was?

Page 15

- How did Bibet know now that the woman who gave him the figs spoke the truth?

Page 17:

- What is Bibet planning? Why are the books on hypnotism necessary?

Page 21

- Predict: What do you think will happen next?

Page 24:

- How do you think Bibet will respond?

Page 25:

- Predict: What do you think will happen next:

Page 27:

- What has happened? How is this possible?

After Reading:

- Where you surprised by the ending?
- How did the author foreshadow that this type of ending might happen?
- Have the students complete the writing extensions.

THE SWEETEST FIG: *Focus your thoughts*

Name: _____ Date: _____

As you are listening to book, write down any evidence from the book that suggests Bibet is a terrible pet owner. Be prepared to explain how your evidence supports this idea.

THE SWEETEST FIG: *Your Turn!*

Name: _____ Date: _____

Write a fictional narrative about what you would do if you had a magical fig like in the book.

THE SWEETEST FIG: *Finish it!*

Name: _____ Date: _____

Finish the story by writing about what you think happens the rest of the day.

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Thanks!
Jennifer Findley

