



RUNNING PRESS KIDS
STUDY GUIDE
with CCSS

Created by Joie Formando



**THE
RECKLESS
CLUB**
by *Beth Vrabel*

BEFORE YOU READ:

What does it mean to be “reckless”? Can you think of a time where you, or someone you know, was reckless? What were the consequences of their actions?

8:00AM JASON

1. Predict why these students are at Northbrook Retirement Village.
2. Read Jason’s description of Ally on page 9. What do you think he finds interesting about her? Can you try to draw Ally based on Jason’s description?
3. It seems like Rex has a secret. How do you think she knows Mrs. Mitchell? What, or who, do you think is on the third floor?

9:00AM LILITH

1. *Everybody has a story, Lilith thinks. They all just look boring. Underneath, I’m sure they’re all very exciting people* (p. 19). Write about a time where you judged someone before you knew their story. How did hearing their story change your impression of them?

9:15AM WES

1. Agnes seems to have *many* stories to tell—her room is full of photographs and mementos from her life! Write a list of 5 personal objects (or people or pets) that symbolize who you are. Why did you chose these objects? How are these items connected to you?

10:28AM WES

1. “Lilith and Ally, now that Wes thought about it, were about as different as any two people could be. Where Lilith was posh and shining, Ally was all straight lines and grit” (p.62). Do you know someone who is the opposite of yourself? Describe that person. What makes you different? Do you think you have any similarities?

10:35AM JASON

1. Rex is finally beginning to open up and divulge some of her secrets. What do we know about her relationship with her brother, August?
2. Jason is an artist, much like his nickname, Picasso. Research Pablo Picasso—what are three things you learned about him? What is his most famous work of art, and what is your opinion on that piece?

11:40AM WES

1. TBN asks Wes about the last time he thanked his parents for his most basic needs. When was the last time you thanked your parents for taking care of you? Do you ever feel like you take them for granted?
2. Why do you think TBN left an object under a book in an empty room? What is she up to?

11:43AM JASON

1. Agnes is quite a character! She says, “We only get one life, I figure. Why not live it? Be as reckless and joyful and curious as possible” (p. 122). Is this good life advice?
2. “Shame fills him, shame at not knowing what everyone else seems to have been born understanding” (p. 126). Have you ever felt unsure like Jason?

12:15PM WES

1. “*Just*. Wes hears the word again and again in his mind now” (p.158). What has happened to Rex to make her react so intensely to situations at school?

12:53PM ALLY

1. Rex and Ally don’t seem to get along, but what happens to them once they discover they have something in common? Re-read their interaction on pages 174-178. What do they have in common? How do you think this will affect their relationship as the story progresses?

1:56PM ALLY

1. Summarize what Ally did to Amelia. Ally mentions she’s jealous of Amelia, even though Amelia is not a strong athlete. Why is she jealous? What have we learned about Ally’s relationship with her father?
2. Is “feeling bad” about something you’ve done to another person enough to redeem yourself for the act? Why or why not?

2:43PM JASON

1. Jason has a story unique to the others—he did not do something “reckless.” He used his talents to make a statement and make his school community aware of a situation. Think of a time in history where one person “made a statement.” Who was it? What did they do and why was their statement an important one to make?
2. Rex tells Jason that he is a leader, that he led them all day and didn’t know it. What are a few qualities of a great leader? How has Jason fit those qualities throughout the novel?

3:07PM WES

1. Lilith does a very brave thing when she discovers Frank asking to see his granddaughter before he passes. What do you think Lilith has learned from her experience at the retirement village? Could you have done something that brave?

3:07PM REX

1. Rex finally opens up about her brother, August. What have you learned from his story? What should you do if a friend or family member shows signs of depression or self-harm?
2. Do you think Wes returned to Northbrook to take Judith to prom? What do you think prom looked like for the residents at Northbrook?

WRAP-UP DISCUSSION:

1. The novel ends with a letter from the Reckless Club. Write a short story about the first day of 9th grade for Jason, Rex, Wes, Ally, and Lilith. Do you think they will sit together at lunch?
2. The Reckless Club spent just six hours at Northbrook Retirement Village. How do you think their lives have changed after just one day?

COMMON CORE STANDARDS

GRADE 8: READING AND LITERATURE
GRADE 8: WRITING
corestandards.org/ELA-Literacy

READING: KEY IDEAS AND DETAILS:
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.8.1
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.8.2
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.8.3

CRAFT AND STRUCTURE:
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.8.6

GRADE 8: WRITING
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.8.2
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.8.3
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.8.3.A
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.8.3.B
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.8.9