

## Tips for Supporting Your Student



### In general:

1. Have a quiet place in your home where your student can go to study.
2. Keep reading material interesting to a middle school student available in your home, such as young adult novels, magazines, and comic books.
3. Set a time in your home when every family member sits down and reads. Discuss as a family what you're reading.
4. Ask to see your student's homework assignments.

### For reading the novel *Tangerine*:

1. Discuss what your student is learning in school about the story. For example, ask your student to summarize events in the story as he or she reads new chapters.
2. The story contains many important issues that you can discuss with your child, such as:
  - a. the role of school sports and treatment of professional athletes in America
  - b. sibling rivalry
  - c. dealing with bullies/harassment
  - d. disabilities and acceptance
  - e. the importance of truth-tellingAsk your student how the main character, Paul, deals with each one of these issues.
3. Ask to see your student's homework schedule and assignments.

## About the Author

Edward Bloor grew up in Trenton, New Jersey, in a diverse neighborhood where soccer was an important sport to the local youth. In 1983, he moved to Fort Lauderdale, Florida, where he began teaching middle school language arts. Three years later he became the senior editor of textbooks for Harcourt Brace School Publishers in Orlando.

While commuting to his teaching job in Orlando, he noticed that destruction of citrus trees by developers of expensive walled communities. From his sympathies with displaced Floridians, he built a cast of characters and the fictional town that was once the world's tangerine capital. After writing *Tangerine*, he went on to publish two more books, *Crusader* and *Story Time*.

## Awards for *Tangerine*

Middle Citation from Voice of Youth Advocates

Edgar Allan Poe Nominee

American Bookseller's Association Citation

New York Public Library Citation

American Library Association Citation

Publisher's Weekly Book of the Year



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## *Tangerine* By Edward Bloor

A 7th Grade  
Required Unit of Study

The name *Tangerine* was symbolic. As Luis explains, a tangerine is made from a rough lemon rootstock upon which a delicate scion is grafted. Paul was that delicate fruit. He thrived when he joined the rough world of Tangerine Middle School.

-Edward Bloor

# Tangerine



*Tangerine*, by Edward Bloor, is the story of a visually-impaired middle school boy Paul Fischer as he comes of age and learns to accept himself. Paul's family moves from Houston to Tangerine, Florida, so that his older brother Erik can pursue his football dream. Unusual environmental occurrences in Tangerine force Paul to find the truth about the accident that impaired his vision and his own strengths as an individual. After a sinkhole swallows part of Windsor Middle School, he learns both tolerance and acceptance as well as how to be assertive as he moves to Tangerine Middle School. Haunted by flashbacks of his past, Paul learns there is no happily ever after, just several chances for multiple beginnings.

## ▶ What Your Student Will Learn in This Unit

### Reading

Students will learn about important elements of story-telling and reading comprehension strategies:

*Elements of story-telling:* plot, setting, character development, author's style, perspective, point of view, dialect, irony, characterization, foreshadowing, suspense, symbolism, theme, metaphor

*Reading strategies:* inference, prediction, analysis, summary

### Writing

Teachers will use different forms of writing to help students understand the story and share their own interpretations of the story. Forms of writing might include:

Journaling, autobiographical vignettes, compare/contrast, cause/effect, summaries, editorials

### Communicating

This 7th grade story provides rich topics for debate and discussion.

### Social Studies

There are many connections in the unit to social studies concepts and topics:

Students will learn about geography and physical features of the land. Students will study the effect of the environment on the community, and be able to compare the Washington Apple industry to the Florida Orange industry. The story contains history of migrant farm workers and addresses cultural conflicts within the community.

### Health

There are important middle school health and fitness topics addressed in the unit, such as:

Bullying and Harassment

Prejudice

Family Dynamics

Vision and Eye Care

Health/wellness triangle

Team work

The role of the coach and parent in sports

Sports logos, team spirit

Female interaction in sports

### Science

The unit also addresses the relationship between humans and their environment.

Students will have the opportunity to discuss topics related directly to their learning in 7th grade science class:

Weather patterns, water cycle

(7th Grade Weather and Water Science Unit)

The interaction between emotional and physical responses

(7th Grade Human Body Systems Science Unit)

Environmental issues, cell structure, hybrids, and cross-breeding

(7th Grade Diversity of Life Science Unit)

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