

# ***Between Two Brothers***

A Novel by Crystal Allen

## **An Educator's Guide**



**Message from the Author:** The purpose of this guide is to provide educators with unique opportunities to engage students in deeper conversations and activities surrounding empathy, hope, and the healing power in writing.

**About the Book:** Inspired by real events, *Between Two Brothers* is a powerful and uplifting story of forgiveness, brotherhood, and the power of a family's unconditional love.

Isaiah “Ice” Abernathy has always worshiped his older brother, Seth. For years they’ve been not just brothers but best friends—and as Seth starts his senior year, Ice is eager to spend as much time with his brother as he can, making memories before Seth goes to college.

But when Seth announces he’s leaving for college much earlier than expected, and then he misses an important event—one he’d promised to attend—it causes a major fight.

Filled with regret, Ice plans to apologize to Seth later that day, but later never comes, as he finds out Seth was in an accident—one that leaves him in the hospital. And the doctors say he may never recover.

Racked by fear and guilt, Ice chooses to defy the experts, and help Seth recover in a way only he can—by trusting in their bond and the undying love between two brothers.

This book is perfect for readers who loved *Fish in a Tree* and *Out of My Mind*.

### **Some Reviews:**

“A moving and uplifting exploration of sibling bonds.” –**Kirkus Reviews**  
(starred review)

“Rendered in touching prose via Isaiah’s empathetic first-person voice, this tender ode to siblinghood showcases the occasional precarity of life’s best-laid plans and emphasizes that compassion and familial support can imbue one with the strength and resilience to overcome any obstacle.”  
–**Publishers Weekly**

“Tenderly told with voice and humor, *Between Two Brothers* is a beautiful story of love, perseverance and hope. It is a tale of family, community, and a bond between brothers that even the most devastating circumstances cannot destroy.” –**Rajani LaRocca**, Newbery Honor-winning author of *Red, White, and Whole*.

“Crystal Allen delivers an emotional triumph in *Between Two Brothers*. The bond between the Abernathy boys is tender, and the riveting plot doesn’t sidestep the pain of dealing with a life-changing accident or the difficulties of navigating the medical system. Allen deftly illustrates how life may alter a family, but cannot change who they are at their core.”  
–**Tracey Baptiste**, *New York Times* bestselling author

**About the Author:** Crystal Allen is the author of six middle-grade books, including *How Lamar’s Bad Prank Won a Bubba-Sized Trophy*, and the *Magnificent Mya Tibbs* series, all published by Balzer + Bray. She is Co-Director of Kindling Words East, committee member of The Brown Bookshelf, and faculty member of the Highlights Foundation. *Between Two Brothers*, was released in January of 2024. Crystal lives in Texas with her husband, Reggie, and two sons, Phillip, and Joshua.  
<http://www.crystalallenbooks.com>

**Additional Author:** Dixie Keyes is a teacher educator at Arkansas State University in Jonesboro, Arkansas. She taught middle and high school English Language Arts for 14 years in South Texas before becoming a Professor of Middle Level Education.

**Using this Guide:** This guide divides the novel into four sections:

- ***Two Brothers***—chapters 1 to 11
- ***Tragedy***—chapters 12 to 22
- ***Rewiring***—chapters 23 to 40
- ***Between Two Brothers***—chapters 41 to 52

We recommend a whole-class novel study lasting 4-6 weeks, depending on class schedules and student needs. This guide includes activities for each focus on the literary elements of fiction, literary devices, comprehension, and personal connections with the novel. Additionally, a variety of “reader response prompts” are included in each section for student blogging or reading journal assignments.

**Table of literary topics in this guide:**

TOPICS	CHAPTER(S)
onomatopoeia	1, 2, 4
character traits and actions	1, 2, 29, 37
setting	2, 37
connotation	2
simile	2, 14, 18, 28
personification	3
foreshadowing	3, 17,
hyperbole	4
predicting	6, 35
debate	8, 45-46
plot	15-16, 39-40
mood	15-16, 27
imagery	18
conflict	19, 22
theme	28
metaphor/extended metaphor	28, 30
symbols/symbolism	30, 43-44, 50
literary allusion	43-44

## **Reading Discussion and Activity Ideas** ***followed by READING RESPONSE prompts***

*Educators can select from the reading discussion and activity ideas to differentiate for students, to develop mini-lessons for each chapter, or to provide group assignments.*

### **Section One, “Two Brothers”-Chapters 1 to 11**

#### **Chapter 1-**

- Make a list of Isaiah’s chores on the farm, and compare them to a list of your household and yard chores.
- The author uses the literary device *onomatopoeia* (e.g. Wham! Pooooot). Notice how the onomatopoeia is formatted within the sentence.
- “Snapsickles!” is an expletive, but not a negative or bad word. Find the instances where Isaiah says it and infer why he uses such a unique word.
- Create a four-square Family Chart of the Abernathy’s. Like the Brady Bunch family square, make a square for Mom, Dad, Seth, and Isaiah. Write at least two character traits for each person. Consider adding images based on your visualization of what the characters might look like. This can be done digitally or on paper, using cut-outs from magazines.

#### **Chapter 2**

- Two new characters are introduced in this chapter, Juan Carlos and Brandon. Create another chart that has two squares and write two character traits for both new characters. Add images if desired.
- Isaiah acknowledges a part of his personality, the “Shy Guy,” in this chapter. How does Isaiah’s “Shy Guy” personality come forward in Chapter 2?
- Fold a sheet of paper, or use two facing pages in a notebook to make a “two-pager.” Use one side of the paper to draw images of the Abernathy farm. Consider including descriptive quotes about the animals or the farm as a place or setting. On the other side of the paper, do the same for Redd’s Barbershop.
- Explain why Isaiah’s nickname has a positive connotation and also a negative connotation. Helpful tip: “Ice Pic” p. 10; “Ice cream” pp. 11-12.
- The author continues to use onomatopoeia on p. 11 and another literary device, a simile, also on p. 11. Find each one and explain how each relates to any of the five senses.

#### **Chapter 3**

- Discussion: What does it mean to be “bully bait?”
- On page 17, the author writes: “One more question parachuting from the roof of my mouth...” What literary device is being used, and what does it mean?

- The statement on p. 19, “I see you and I always will. Between two brothers, right?” foreshadows the theme of this book. What is foreshadowing? Use predicting skills to craft several theme statements that might represent the theme of the book. Think of “theme” as “the-message-to me” from the author. What is the author’s message in terms of theme?

#### **Chapter 4**

- What more is learned about the Abernathy family through any family moments in this chapter? Discuss.
- The author continues to use onomatopoeia. What is accomplished through the use of “Boomph. Swish,” on pages 24 and 25?
- What literary device is being used in the sentence, “I’m sweating a river,” on page 25?

#### **Chapter 5**

- Read aloud the church episode when Seth and Isaiah play the pinching game. What does the author do to craft this humorous episode?

#### **Chapter 6**

- Isaiah begins his work with the Yearbook Staff and also meets Zurie Fury. Write predictions about how both the Yearbook Staff and having Zurie as a potential friend might benefit Isaiah.

#### **Chapter 7**

- The author uses an unusual word: “Swaggravated.” What two words are used to create a new word? What does “swaggravated” mean? Try creating few new words of your own to describe something.
- Both Seth and Isaiah get new jobs in this chapter. What are they?
- What happens in the chicken coop that makes Isaiah think of becoming a doctor? Do you think he’s more likely to be a photographer or a veterinarian? Discuss.

#### **Chapter 8**

- Challenges: In this chapter, Zurie challenges Isaiah to do something, and then Isaiah challenges Brandon to do something. Are both challenges positive or negative? Explain. Debate Zurie’s challenge to Isaiah—is it a good idea or could it cause problems?

#### **Chapter 9**

- Isaiah makes the “Brazos Bayou Bet” with Brandon. Why do people make bets with one another? What is Isaiah’s intention with this bet?

#### **Chapter 10**

- Seth competes in his long distance run in this chapter, and his athletic talents and popularity shine. Ice almost beats Brandon up and seems closer to a reactionary response. What’s something new learned about both Seth and Isaiah in this chapter?

- After Seth bails on Isaiah to hang out with Juan Carlos and Isaiah reads Seth’s early acceptance letter to A&M, a potential rift happens between the two brothers. What two things does Seth do to make Isaiah feel better?

## Chapter 11

- The day of the “Brazos Bayou” competition arrives, and Ice does his part on free throws with a 49/50 result. How does Brandon react to Ice’s success?
- The day takes a turn when Seth doesn’t show up for his part of the competition. Dad also confronts Seth about something. Why does everyone go to bed mad?

### Section One Reading Response/Blogging Ideas:

*\*Note: There may not be a reading response/blogging idea for each chapter, so feel free to develop additional ones.*

#### Chapter 1:

- Write about a memorable birthday you had, whether it was fantastic or disappointing.
- Write about a nickname you’ve been given, or write about a nickname you think you’d like to have.
- On p. 5, the author writes, “I cut my eyes to watch her, feeling like I’m five years old again because I still love her like that.” What can you infer about the relationship between Isaiah and his mother?

#### Chapter 3:

- Describe a hard or difficult conversation you have had. Did it stay “soft” and “smooth,” or did it remain difficult? How did you try to “keep it real?”

#### Chapter 4:

- Isaiah talks to his “Wish granter” on page 26. Have you ever asked for a wish that came true? How do you ask for wishes now?

#### Chapter 5:

- After reading the church pinching episode in this chapter, describe a time when you goofed around in church or a place you were supposed to be quiet.
- P. 32—“I take a seat up front and ignore him. I know he’s looking for a fight, but I’ve got bigger dreams, and he’s not in them.” How would you describe Isaiah’s reaction to Brandon’s insult, and how would you have chosen to react?

**Chapter 6:**

- After reading how Isaiah lets “Shy Guy” take over, and later how he put Shy Guy in the background to speak up to Zurie, describe a time when you had to combat a negative personality trait. What happened?

**Chapter 7:**

- Describe a time you received good news or a time someone approved you for a job, a position, or an award. How did it make you feel?

**Chapter 9:**

- Describe a bet you have made with someone, based on a talent you or they have/had. Who won? What lessons were learned?

**Chapter 11:**

- Describe a time when you were so excited or nervous about something that you felt nauseous. What physical sensations happen due to the excitement or anxiety? Do the nerves help or hinder?

-----*End of Section One, “Two Brothers”*-----

**Section Two, “Tragedy”-Chapters 12 to 22****Chapter 12–13**

- Prepare another “2-pager,” (a folded sheet of white paper, or two pages in a notebook) with “Tragedy” as a title or headline. Select key quotes, descriptions, or phrases that depict the tragedy as it unfolds across these two chapters. Add images, color, or designs that represent the emotions felt.

**Chapter 14**

- What is the doctor’s report on Seth?
- Draw Dr. Parker’s head and face based on this description: “Dr. Parker’s brown hair is pinned on top of her head, except for a few strands that dangle on the sides of her face like broken tree branches after a storm.” What literary device is used?
- Look up “hyperventilation.” What is the medical definition of it? How does Isaiah experience hyperventilation and why?
- The people and sounds of the ICU—what sounds and people come into the life of the Abernathy’s as they wait for Seth to wake up? Discuss with a partner or make a list.

## Chapter 15-16

- The plot keeps readers on high alert in the new setting of the hospital. Develop a timeline that depicts the sequence of events from the family taking turns sitting with Seth to Isaiah being sent home.
- Discuss the *mood* of the hospital setting (in literary terms), based on the descriptions and the events that unfold there.

## Chapter 17

- Back on the farm, Isaiah tries to return to the normalcy of home. How does he do this and who helps? Who helps him the most? Discuss.
- Seth's parents hear from the doctor that "Seth may be different...." This is foreshadowing. How can you predict how Seth has been impacted by the tragic accident? Write out several predictions with a partner about how Seth may be different and discuss why you think your predictions might be true.

## Chapter 18

- How are imagery and similes used in this chapter to describe students' reaction to Isaiah upon his return and the fear he is experiencing about his brother's life? –p. 112 "Students separate like oil and water to let me by..."
- Discuss the different reactions classmates/peers had to the classroom fight between Isaiah and Brandon. Were the consequences fair? Why did Brandon persist in bothering Isaiah?.

## Chapter 19

- Two central conflicts have emerged. First—Isaiah is desperate to ensure Seth knows how sorry he is for the fight and for hitting him. Second—Dad faces unjust treatment from BMP, the business that owns the truck that hit Seth. Discuss how each conflict builds tension in the plot. How might these conflicts be resolved? How could each conflict be labeled (Man vs. Man; Man vs. Himself; Man vs. God....)

## Chapter 20

- The family gets the news that Seth's brain swelling has gone down. Research the dangers of brain swelling and share your findings with the class or a small group.

## Chapter 21

- Describe the emotions experienced when reading that Seth has woken up.

## Chapter 22

- Juan Carlos says in this chapter, "Seth is all about long-distance, not short sprints. He'll be back." P. 142. Define the ways that Juan Carlos is a good friend to both Seth and the Abernathy's.



- What does it mean to “file a lawsuit.” Why are Mr. and Mrs. Abernathy, with Trish’s assistance, filing a lawsuit against BMP? Remember, this is one of the central conflicts of the novel. As the novel continues, how might this conflict be resolved?
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### Section Two Reading Response/Blogging Ideas:

*\*Note: There may not be a reading response/blogging idea for each chapter, so feel free to develop additional ones.*

#### **Chapter 15-16**

- Using art or just color and words, draw a representation of the hospital setting. What emotions are portrayed in the drawing?

#### **Chapter 18**

- Read page 113: “fire in my eyes...the fear I’ve felt..is a radical, heart-thumping, emotional bully, so much tougher than anything he’s ever dished out....” Brandon enters the picture again and NOT at a good time. How does Isaiah lose his intellectual response to bullying and let a reactionary response take over? Describe fear, using imagery like the author, in a poem or short paragraph.

#### **Chapter 19**

- “Everybody makes mistakes. Always leave space for grace...” p. 125. Write about any sayings or reminders family members or friends have said to you similar to what Zurie shared with Ice about making mistakes.

-----**End of Section Two, “Tragedy”**-----

### **Section Three, “Rewiring”-Chapters 23 to 40**

#### **Chapter 23**

- This chapter presents a series of up’s and down’s. How is the tragedy the Abernathy family experienced shifting in this chapter? Map out or discuss the up’s and down’s you read about. (Seth is off breathing machine; reporters hound the family; Dad is blackballed while job-hunting; Seth gets moved to a private rehab room).

## Chapter 24-25

- As Seth begins his Rehab schedule, the family learns the things they'll need to do for him as he prepares to come home. Make a list of the basic care Seth will need, then make a list of the specifics of his therapy (that is related to his "rewiring").
- Life changes for Mom and Dad as Seth continues his journey. What happens to Mom and Dad in these chapters? Discuss.
- Write a short paragraph that describes Zurie and Ice's "Brain Project" in its early stages. Include at least one quote from Zurie or Ice that gave you a strong idea or impression of "retraining the brain."

## Chapter 26

- Make a "Welcome back" sign for Isaiah that reflects the way his peers received him as he returns to school.
- In small groups, debate Brandon's ultimate fate of being sent to military school. Was this the best outcome for him? What are some other alternatives for Brandon that might help him?
- Times are difficult for the family in financial ways. What does it mean to have assets financially? How do the Abernathy's use assets to maintain their status quo/living expenses? Discuss.

## Chapter 27

- What is the literary mood in this chapter as Isaiah's schedule adds many new responsibilities and as the time for Seth to come home is near? Compare this mood to the mood in the previous section of chapters.

## Chapter 28

- Use a digital tool like Canva to create an infographic or poster about "traumatic brain injury." Include ways traumatic brain injury can happen, and provide a definition. Try including any statistics that feel significant to Seth's injury.
- Make a chart, either on paper or using the "table" tool on a Google or Word document, that has 3 columns: "Simile," "Metaphor," and "Extended metaphor." Then find at least one of each in this chapter.
- Juan Carlos strengthens Isaiah's resolve as he shares, "Don't let them steal your hope. The doctors don't know Seth like we do. He's got you on lock in his brain. You're in there!" This encouragement happens at a critical time. Why was this so important for Isaiah to hear? What theme is manifesting or growing based on this?

## Chapter 29

- Checklists, repetitions, interviews, plans... Draw thought bubbles for several characters who are working hard to make things happen in this chapter. You can choose Juan Carlos, Isaiah, Zurie, Dad, or Mom. Think of the priorities each has at this point in the novel. What are their thoughts or plans for the thought bubbles?

## Chapter 30

- The “rewiring” begins. How does Zurie and Ice’s development of the brain project move forward? Discuss with a partner.
- What finally happens to Dad in this chapter?
- Ice finds the necklace Seth gave him. He remembers Seth saying, “I promise I’ll be back.” What does the necklace symbolize for Ice?
- Isaiah realizes he is central to Seth’s recovery. How does Isaiah describe his role with a metaphor? Consider generating a visual of either the necklace or the idea of being a compass, and add key quotes from this chapter to either visual. Use digital images or draw.

## Chapter 31

- What does Isaiah plan for Seth’s first goal?
- Describe to a partner the reporters’ response to seeing Seth exit the hospital.
- Put yourself in Mom’s position. Describe how you might feel learning how to work with Seth’s feeding tube.
- Describe the work schedule the family develops to take care of Seth’s needs upon his return home.

## Chapter 32

- How does Isaiah use Instagram as a support system?
- How does Isaiah use music as a motivational tool?

## Chapter 33

- Why do you think Seth’s rehabilitation has been limited to 10 days unless he shows improvement in that short span of time? Discuss.

## Chapter 34

- Several people provide ideas and help out Isaiah (and Zurie) as they begin to connect Seth’s therapy and their brain rewiring project. What do Rhino and Uncle Jerry help with? Who are Nicole and Trinh, and what do they suggest or help with?

## Chapter 35

- While Mom gets better at feeding Seth, Isaiah shows her the plan/schedule he developed for Seth. Talk with a partner about the importance of plans and schedules. What plans or schedules are involved in daily life?
- Isaiah continues to develop his photography skills as Mr. Whitaker announces the school dance and a photography opportunity. Predict how photography might play a role in helping Seth’s recovery.

## Chapter 36

- How does Isaiah advocate for a birthday celebration for Seth?
- Isaiah knows hope for Seth's recovery is critical As he starts Seth's therapy on Saturday mornings, Seth's eyes open as Isaiah begins. Is this a sign of improvement or just a coincidence?
- Explain how Isaiah plans to use the COLLAGE idea (from his photography) for awakening Seth's senses?
- What ideas does Isaiah use to help rewire Seth's sense of touch?

## Chapter 37

- This chapter brings an increased sense of normalcy to the Abernathy's. A familiar place/setting comes back into the story as Isaiah gives Seth his birthday surprise. Which minor character reappears in the story?

## Chapter 38

- Another sign of improvement occurs in this chapter. What is this sign from Seth? What is the reaction from Trinh and Nicole when they acknowledge this sign?
- Seth gets an upgrade in his rehabilitation that changes everything. What is it?
- Ice acknowledges all of Zurie's help by giving her a new nickname. What is it?
- When Mom and Dad hear about Seth's signs of improvement, how do they all celebrate together?

## Chapter 39-40

- Two plotlines continue in these chapters: 1) the BMP lawsuit, and 2) Seth's continued use of and progress with the Voiceboard. Describe each plotline and how they both develop in these chapters.

### Section Three Reading Response/Blogging Ideas (for Chapters 23-40):

*\*Note: There may not be a reading response/blogging idea for each chapter, so feel free to develop additional ones.*

#### Chapter 23

- Compose an extended metaphor for a deep emotion. This requires choosing a metaphor and an emotion (eg. fear, jealousy, love, anxiety), and then listing the characteristics of each. Then, compose a paragraph or a poem that describes the characteristics in a metaphorical way.
- Create a simile using this one as a model: "There's pain in this room, all mixed together like some busted science formula: Angry air plus sad air minus hopeful air equals this air." p. 181. Feel free to choose another emotion besides pain.

### **Chapter 30**

- Brains are often compared to computers. What else can you compare brain operations to? Think of several possibilities. Think of the processes for each comparison, and use a comparison chart to write the ways the processes of the brain are similar and different to the metaphors chosen.
- Describe a time when you were determined to get something done or to reach a goal. How did you feel? Describe your determination. How is it like Isaiah's determination?

### **Chapter 32**

- Isaiah creates a playlist to motivate Seth's improvement. Develop a playlist to encourage someone you know. What songs or musical artists would be featured?

### **Chapter 33**

- Petitions and Protest: In this chapter, Ice finds out there are petitions against BMP. He also finds out that students in his school are protesting by refusing to eat BMP products during lunch. Response Option A: Think of an issue deserving of petitions and a protest. What would the petition say? Compose the wording of the petition AND create a protest poster for the cause. Response Option B: Find an example of a petition and/or protest on the news and share with the class.

### **Chapter 35**

- Pick a partner and research athletic events for people with special needs. What can you find in your state and/or local area? Make a list of events you find and include the date/season/month of the events along with a brief description of each.

### **Chapter 36**

- Think of a time you were sure you were right, but actually you were either wrong or didn't know the full picture. Describe this in your journal or blog.

### **Chapter 37**

- Research Voiceboards. Find examples online of any teenagers who use a Voiceboard to communicate. Also find any famous people who use or used a Voiceboard.

### **Chapter 40**

- Reread the act of forgiveness that happens between Mr. Abernathy and Johnny Earl. Share how this act of forgiveness may have been unexpected by most. Does this major plot event help you identify a theme of the novel? There may be multiple themes, but which one seems timely from this chapter? Write about it and share in your journal or blog.

-----*End of Section Three, "Rewiring"*-----

## Section Four, “Between Two Brothers”-Chapters 41 to 52

### Chapter 41

- Nicole explains what’s called a “window” to Seth in regard to his rewiring. What does this mean?
- What does Seth do in this chapter that gains him even more therapy time? How does this relate back to Juan Carlos’ “believe in Seth” statement earlier in the book?

### Chapter 42

- What’s next for Seth in his therapy sessions in this chapter?
- During therapy, Seth hears an 18 wheeler, then presses the button for “stoplight.” What does this mean?

### Chapter 43-44

- Juan Carlos and Isaiah want to further inspire Seth’s progress by bringing him back to athletics in some way. What are their ideas?
- Zurie and Isaiah have a movie-moment when they leave the dance. Discuss the symbolism of the lights.
- How does Isaiah begin preparing for the Turkey Trot? Think of a movie, TV show, story, or book his practice might remind you of (literary allusion)?

### Chapter 45-46

- Zurie finishes organizing their brain project. What is the title of it? Brainstorm 2-3 other possible titles.
- Ice doesn’t have enough time to do it all, but Juan Carlos keeps motivating him with a saying....what is it?
- Once Nicole manages to get a racing stroller they can borrow for the Turkey Trot, Ice has to make a difficult decision to get the slip signed. What does he do? Discuss this situation and debate if he did the right thing or not.
- How does Isaiah use Instagram to gain support for the Thanksgiving Day race?

### Chapter 47-48

- What does Juan Carlos do when he finds out Isaiah doesn’t have permission for Seth to be in the race?
- Ice is determined to get Seth to the race despite parents saying no. What adjectives would you use to describe his plans to borrow Dad’s truck?

### Chapter 49

- Dad says how proud he is of Ice for all the hard work over the past weeks, but Ice will still get punishment for driving the truck without permission. Does this change your view about Mr. Abernathy? In what ways? Why or why not?

## Chapter 50

- Mother Nature causes some problems for Seth and Isaiah during the race. Draw the expressions you imagine that Isaiah might have on his face during these setbacks.
- Ice picks Seth up in an attempt to finish the race. What are the words spoken from each brother? What emotions come up as you read this part?
- Symbolism of light happens again in this chapter? What does it symbolize here?
- “With or without a brain injury, Seth knows the sound and smell of a finish line.” p. 325. How does this line connect back to the focus on developing Seth’s improvement using the five senses?

## Chapter 51

- How does Dad validate Ice when he and Seth finish the race?
- What does the cross country team do as a sign of respect as Seth passes by?

## Chapter 52

- What was central to BMP’s agreement to settle the lawsuit, as Trish explained it?
- What is next for Seth now that the family will be financially settled so he can get the assistance he needs?

### **Section Four Reading Response/Blogging Ideas (for Chapters 41-52):**

*\*Note: There may not be a reading response/blogging idea for each chapter, so feel free to develop additional ones.*

#### **Chapter 40-44**

- Design your own Voiceboard by creating a table or chart and typing in or drawing the words or phrases that would mean a lot to you and that would help you communicate with others.

#### **Chapter 45**

- Isaiah has a difficult decision to make and it means he may need to lie. Think of a time when you thought you might have to lie or when you did lie. Was it worth it? What happened?

#### **Chapter 51-52**

- Resolutions are different for every novel. Sometimes resolutions come about where the conflict or conflicts are solved. Sometimes a final event in the book brings forward a resolution. How does the author bring the resolution forward to readers in this book? Is it more complicated than one event?
- Attempt to sketch the plot line of this novel like an electrocardiogram. Does it branch into multiple electrocardiograms at different points in the novel (with the multiple subplots)? Do they merge back together toward the end?

## **AFTER READING–**

### **Project Ideas/Possibilities:**

- Create a Collage
  - “Everybody makes mistakes. Always leave space for grace.” Create a poetry and image collage that aligns or connects with this theme.
  - Use any of the wisdom/truths from the book and create a collage using pictures and words.
- Use an online tool like CANVA or Piktochart to develop an informational “Guide for Relieving Anxiety” that has tips for overcoming nervousness or defeating the “Shy Guy/Girl.” Make your audience peers of the same age.
- Develop YOUR version of a “Training Program” using neighborhood/community resources or anything from your home context, like Isaiah used the wheelbarrow and hay to prepare for the *Turkey Trot*.
- Take on a scientist’s point of view by generating a “Science Research Report” related to neuroscience (ie a dog relearning how to walk). Use your research, summarizing, and citation skills and also integrate visuals, charts, or diagrams into your report.
- Multi-modal point of view project–1st person. How does the author enliven Ice’s voice or make his 1st person unique in order to carry the story along? Create an audio or video of excerpts from the novel in Ice’s voice and play for an audience to whom you are recommending the book.
- QTA–Question the Author. In groups, make a list of 5-10 questions for Crystal Allen. Organize this from literal questions to inferential questions and/or organize them by the sections of the book used in this guide. Communicate these questions to the author and let the students share answers provided. Contact information for Crystal Allen can be found here: <https://crystalallenbooks.com/contact.php>
- “When Circumstances Change, Love Doesn’t”--write a short story with this theme.

***Thank you for reading Between Two Brothers!***