

I Don't Want to (but I will) - Teaching Guide

Pre-reading Discussion Questions:

What are some things that you don't like to do?

work, homework, clean my room, eat vegetables, walk the dog, clean the fish tank, share with my sibling...

Why don't you like to do them?

too hard

not fun

more for me

Are there some things that other people in your life do that don't seem to be very fun, or that are hard?

laundry

grocery shopping

clean the house

go to work

fix things

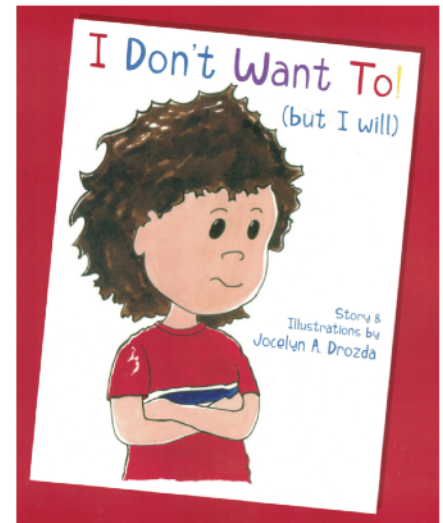
mow the lawn

Do you think these people like to do all these things, or would they rather ... play with you all day? Or go bike riding? Or read? etc.

What do you think this story is going to be about?

Read the back of the book.

Introduction - The character in this story is a boy named Xander, who is about your age. His side-kick is his pet duck named Alex. Let's read the story to see why it is called, "I Don't Want To! (BUT I WILL!)"



During Reading Possible Questions

(Throughout the story - Can you find Alex, the duck, in the pictures?)

What things at school do you find hard to do? Why are they hard for you?

Why do you think Xander's teacher called his parents? What do you think is going to happen?

He was supposed to stay and do his math but he snuck out.

Do you have any chores at home that you find challenging or boring? What is hard about them?

What are some things you'd really like to do but others tell you not to?
Eat too much candy, go to bed without brushing my teeth, hide my school work, tease the dog.

Have you ever broken a sibling or friend's toy? What happened? What did they say or do about it?

Do you think Xander will get away with sneaking out on his teacher and pretending he was asleep so he didn't have to take out the garbage?

Oh oh! What do you think is happening with Xander's mom? Is she doing this on purpose?

She is not washing his clothes, making his breakfast, or packing his lunch—things she normally does for him. Instead she is only doing the things she likes to do.

Oh no! Why did Xander's dad have to clean up the leaves?

Because Xander was supposed to put them in bags, but he didn't!

Why do you think the teacher cancelled painting that day?

She was showing them how everyone has to do things they may not like to do, to help others. She was showing them we all need to work together. She has to work hard and clean up lots of messes so her students can experience the fun and creative learning of painting.

Why do you think Xander's brother did not play catch with him that day?

Xander's brother was hurt that Xander did not listen to him to not touch his things and Xander ended up breaking his toy, so he did not want to play with him that day.

His brother wanted Xander to know it was not ok to break his things.

Why was Xander's sister, Ellie, crying?

Xander ate Ellie's piece of cake.

What were some of the things that made the day so hard for Xander?

He had to wear a shirt he didn't like.

He had to make his own breakfast and pack his own lunch.

He had to walk to school in the cold, wind and rain.

He did not get to do his favorite activity of painting.

His brother did not play with him.

He felt bad he make his sister cry.

Post-Reading Discussion

What does having “self-control” (self-discipline) mean?

Doing hard things, things you don't want to do, and not doing things you really want to do...

Why is it important to practice self-control?

It makes everything function/work better.

Why is it important to do hard things?

It grows your brain.

Why did Xander choose to give his teddy bear to his sister?

To help her feel better after he had eaten her cake.

What do you think the world would be like if people only did the things they wanted to do, and did not do the hard things?

There would be no food in the house if no one went grocery shopping.

We would have no clean clothes if no one did the laundry.

We would have no food ready to eat if no one cooked it.

No one would learn hard things. No one would have invented cool things.

We would not live in buildings. We would have no shelter!

We would have no food!

We would have no clean water!

What would your life be like if you never, ever practiced self-control?