



Welcome to Text Talk!

To make the most of read-aloud time and vocabulary instruction, research shows that students and teachers need to TALK. These Text Talk Notes provide teachers with on-the-spot support to conduct language-rich conversations about TEXT.

These sample Notes correspond to the book *Ruby the Copycat* by Peggy Rathmann. In the Text Talk program published by Scholastic, these Notes come pre-printed on adhesive paper and stick to the edges of a read-aloud book.

Directions for using these sample Notes:

- 1) Print this document on 8.5 x 11 regular paper or overhead transparencies.
- 2) Cut along the dotted lines.
- 3) Use clear adhesive tape or adhesive from a removable glue stick to stick each note to its associated page. (Page number is listed at the top of each Note.)
- 4) Review the Text Talk lesson plan and prepare to lead an engaging read-aloud!

For more information on Text Talk, visit www.scholastic.com/texttalk

front cover



In realistic fiction the story is made up, but it could happen in real life. Ruby is a girl whom you could meet in your class, and she does things that a real girl might do. As you listen to the story, think about story events that could really happen. Think about how the characters seem like real people. • *Literary element*

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Ruby the Copycat

page 5

Ruby smiled at Angela's bow and tiptoed to her seat.



What do we know about Ruby? (She's the new student in Miss Hart's class. She sits behind a girl named Angela who has a red bow that Ruby likes.) • *Recognize character traits*

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Ruby the Copycat

page 7

"What a coincidence!" said Miss Hart.



A coincidence! Miss Hart is saying that two things happened at the same time by accident. • *Clarify vocabulary*



What just happened that Miss Hart says is a coincidence? (Ruby said she was a flower girl in her sister's wedding, just like Angela had been.) • *Clarify story ideas*

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Ruby the Copycat

At lunchtime, Ruby hopped all the way home on one foot.



Wow! Ruby hopped all the way home on one foot. She must be a good hopper.

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Ruby the Copycat

When Ruby came back to school, she was wearing a red bow in her hair.



So Ruby's wearing a red bow now, too. What's that about? (She is copying Angela. Maybe she wants to be like Angela.) • *Recognize character traits*

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Ruby the Copycat

When Ruby came back to school after lunch, she was wearing a sweater with daisies on it.



Now we know why the title of the story is *Ruby the Copycat*. What did Ruby do at lunchtime? (She went home and put on a sweater with daisies just like Angela's.) • *Clarify story ideas*

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Ruby the Copycat

"Wet paint," said Ruby.



Where is the wet paint? (She painted her clothes to match Angela's when she went home, and they're not dry yet.) • *Clarify story ideas*

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Ruby the Copycat

Angela didn't whisper anything. STOP

? Hmm. Angela's not whispering to Ruby now. Why is that? (Angela is angry at Ruby for copying her.)
• Clarify story ideas



So where are we? Let's talk about the story from the beginning to where we are now. Use the following prompts, as needed. • Summarize

What do we know about Ruby?
(She's new at school. She likes to copy Angela. She also likes to hop.)

What does she keep doing? (She keeps copying Angela.)

What problem does this cause?
(Angela is angry at Ruby for copying everything.)

Ruby the Copycat

By coincidence, on Friday morning, both girls wore red-and-lavender-striped dresses. STOP

That is a coincidence! For once, Ruby didn't have to copy Angela. Both girls just happened to wear the same dress to school.

At lunchtime, Angela raced home. STOP

Uh-oh. Now Angela is racing home. What do you think that's about? (Maybe she wants to get away from Ruby. Maybe she'll change so she's not dressed like Ruby.) • Make predictions

Ruby the Copycat

When Angela came back to school, she was wearing black. STOP

? What does that tell you about Angela? (She does not want to look the same as Ruby.) • Recognize character traits

Ruby the Copycat

It was a very loyal pet—it's sad we never really met. STOP


A loyal pet is always there for you.
• Clarify vocabulary




I bet the cat in Angela's poem that sits behind Angela and never lets Angela see her is supposed to be Ruby. It sounds as though Angela is sad that she doesn't really get to know Ruby.

Ruby the Copycat

Ruby stood and recited slowly: STOP


 **Ruby recited. That means she was saying something out loud for an audience.** • Clarify vocabulary


And I'm sure it was a cat, too. STOP

 **What did Ruby just do?** (She copied Angela again.) • Clarify story ideas

Ruby the Copycat


"What a coincidence,"
murmured Miss Hart. STOP

 **Do you think Miss Hart really thought it was a coincidence? Why or why not?** (No, she knew Ruby meant to copy Angela.) • Clarify story ideas

 **Miss Hart murmured. That means she was speaking quietly so others would not hear what she was saying.** • Clarify vocabulary


Ruby the Copycat

P.S. I HATE YOUR HAIR THAT WAY. STOP


 (Show the picture so children can see that Ruby is wearing a red bow again.)
Well, that was mean! Why did Angela write that? (Angela is angry at Ruby for copying her. And she really hates that Ruby is wearing a bow like hers.) • Recognize events

Ruby the Copycat

"You can be anything you want to be, but be Ruby first. I like Ruby." STOP

 **Miss Hart just told Ruby to be Ruby first. What's that about?** (Miss Hart wants Ruby to know that she's fine the way she is. She doesn't need to be like anyone else for people to like her.)
• Recognize problem/solution


Ruby the Copycat

Ruby smiled at Miss Hart's beautiful, polished fingernails. 

? What do you think will happen next? (Ruby will probably copy Miss Hart by polishing her fingernails.) • *Make predictions*

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Ruby the Copycat

"I went to the opera, too!" said Ruby. 

? Oh no! Now what's Ruby doing? (She's copying Miss Hart by saying she went to the opera and wearing polished fingernails.) • *Clarify story ideas*

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Ruby the Copycat

"Ruby, dear," said Miss Hart gently, "did you do anything else this weekend?" 

? Why do you think Miss Hart asked Ruby that question? (She wants Ruby to tell something she really did.) • *Clarify story ideas*

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Ruby the Copycat

"I hopped," said Ruby. 

? Think about what we already know about Ruby. Is she copying anyone now? How do you know? (No, Ruby likes to hop because she always hops home.) • *Recognize character traits*

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Ruby the Copycat

Ruby's ears turned red.



? What does it mean that Ruby's ears turned red? (She was embarrassed because the class was giggling after she said she hopped.) • Clarify story ideas

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Ruby the Copycat

She hopped sideways with both eyes shut.



? What does this tell us about Ruby's hopping? (She's very good at it, and she really likes to hop.) • Recognize character traits

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Ruby the Copycat

So Ruby led the class around the room, while everyone copied her.



? So now everyone is copying Ruby! What's that about? (They all want to be like her because she's so good at hopping.) • Clarify story ideas

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Ruby the Copycat

And at noon, Ruby and Angela hopped home for lunch.



? Why is Angela friends again with Ruby? (Ruby isn't copying Angela anymore. She is just being herself.) • Recognize problem/solution

Wrap-Up

? What has Ruby learned by the end of this story? (She doesn't have to copy other people to be liked. She is fine just the way she is.) • Summarize

Return to Professional Guide for Think and Talk activities.

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Ruby the Copycat