The Cool Bean By Jory John and Pete Oswald

Before Reading: Examine the front and back covers of the book. Have you read other books by this author? What kind of story do you think this is - entertaining or informational? Are there any cool kids at your school? What makes someone cool? Share with your adult.

During Reading: Pause reading to think about your predictions for what might happen next and how the main character feels. Why wasn’t Bean hanging out with the “cool beans?” Does not hanging out with a friend mean that you don’t like them? Does changing your outsides make you cool? What happened to make Bean feel like a “has-bean?” What did the cool beans do to help Bean feel more confident?

Illustrations Support Understanding: Authors often use illustrations to support the meaning of the text, such as in this book, which utilizes amusing drawings, playful scenes, and funny interjections in quotes to enhance the author’s tone and engage the reader. Did you notice Pete Oswald’s art?

Be an Illustrator: Imagine that you are a student at Beantown Elementary, the setting in the story. Design a drawing in artist Pete Oswald’s style featuring you and the other beans in your pod showing kindness. Draw what you would look like on the outside as a cool bean. Create a scene with you and your pod demonstrating kindness and showing that you are cool on the insides, too!

Creation Station Extension at Home: Using recycled materials, craft supplies, or pencil and paper, create a “Cool Bean” mini-poster to decorate your space!
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After Reading: Think about the predictions you made before and during reading the story. Did the actions of the cool beans surprise you? Have you ever felt like a “has-bean!” Who makes you feel connected to a pod by showing kindness? What can you do to be the kind of cool bean that shows kindness, too? Share with your adult and brainstorm ideas to write and draw on this chart:

I can be a COOL BEAN!
Draw or write in each space how you can be a Cool Bean by showing kindness.

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These resources were prepared by GELF’s Educator Advisory Council, a group of 28 Tennessee educators, to encourage engagement with the K-3 Home Library books distributed to students over the summer.

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