



Jabari Tries

by Gaia Cornwall

Jabari is determined to build a fantastic machine that can fly across the whole backyard. He insists he can do it alone. But when his machine crashes and Jabari gets frustrated, his father teaches him ways to calm down and refocus. He also suggests Jabari tries working with a partner: his little sister, Nika. *Jabari Tries* is a gentle story about keeping calm in the face of a problem, and the good things that can happen when people work together.

BEFORE THE READ-ALoud

Have students consider the following question **as a class**:

Would you rather keep trying to complete a difficult task by yourself, even if it's frustrating? Or would you rather work with a partner to complete a task together?

Invite students to share their answers.

Then have students **turn and talk** with a partner: *Think of a time when you had trouble solving a problem by yourself. What was that experience like? How did it make you feel?*

Show the title and cover of the read-aloud book. *In the book we are about to read, the young boy, Jabari, wants to build a machine that will fly across the whole backyard. But what will he do when his machine doesn't work?*

Academic Vocabulary

excellent (p. 6) extremely good

concentrating (p. 8) focusing on a particular activity or object

creativity (p. 9) the use of imagination and original ideas

frustrated (p. 21) feeling distressed or annoyed

calm down (p. 22) to feel more relaxed

DURING THE READ-ALoud

As you read aloud the whole book, you may wish to pause and discuss the following questions, either as a whole class or through turning and talking between partners. These questions will allow the class to explore the library's themes as well as comprehension strategies. (In this book, pages are not numbered. The first page with text is page 3.)

- pp. 2–5** *Jabari says he does not need any help building his flying machine. What does this tell you about Jabari's personality? His little sister, Nika, only speaks a single word: "Me." What do you think she really means? How might she be feeling? (Analyze Character)*
- pp. 6–11** *Jabari thinks about how famous engineers and scientists use their creativity to solve problems. After preparing his space, gathering his tools, and planning, he feels determined. How does Jabari feel about these famous engineers and scientists? How do they affect his work? (Make Inferences)*
- pp. 12–15** *Jabari feels frustration after his flying machine smashes to the ground. Dad suggests that Jabari partners up with Nika. What do you think will happen? (Make Predictions)*
- pp. 16–19** *Even with Nika's help, the machine bashes on the ground. Jabari's chest feels tight and his neck "felt like a sunburn." How might Jabari be feeling? (Make Inferences)*
- pp. 20–23** *What is the advice Jabari's dad gives Jabari for when he feels frustrated? Do you think this advice will help Jabari and Nika with building their invention? (Key Ideas and Details; Make Predictions)*
- pp. 24–27** *Jabari is inspired when Nika says "Me." Why might Jabari be inspired by his sister? (Make Inferences)*
- pp. 28–30** *When Jabari's dad tells him, "You did it," Jabari corrects him and says, "We did it." How does Jabari feel about problem-solving with his sister? What did Jabari learn? Think of a time when you accomplished a task with a friend or family member. How did you feel? (Make Connections)*



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AFTER THE READ-ALoud

After completing the read-aloud, allow time for class discussion using some or all of the following questions. Sit in a circle or in another configuration that is comfortable and encourages class interaction.

Acting as a facilitator, invite children to have *accountable discussions*: remind them to use evidence from the text, their own inferences, personal connections, and other text connections in order to learn from one another.

- *At first, Jabari does not want his sister anywhere near his flying machine. What changes? How does Jabari act toward Nika at the end of the book? Can you think of a time when your opinion of someone has changed for the better? What happened?* **(Building Relationships)**
- *It can be frustrating when a plan doesn't go your way. But with patience and focus, you can calm down and try again. What are some things that you can do when you feel frustrated?* **(Managing Myself)**
- *Jabari and Nika are described as "partners" when they work together. Together they "thought and thought" and built a special flying machine. How might working together with someone help you make a more successful decision?* **(Making Decisions)**
- *In the beginning of the story, Jabari doesn't want Nika anywhere near his machine. He says, "You'll break it!" When he finally gives her a chance, he shows Nika and their dad that he respects her. How is giving someone a chance a sign of respect?* **(Respecting Others)**
- *Jabari's father gives him the tools he needs to calm himself down when he is upset. How does understanding yourself help you understand what you need to do to calm down?* **(Understanding Myself)**

Activity Bank

Writing Activity (with Graphic Organizer)

Write and draw about what advice you can give someone else who is frustrated. **(Managing Myself)**

Building a Robot

(Engineering) Have students imagine they are entering a robot-building competition with a partner. They must work with that partner—like Jabari worked with Nika—to prepare to build a robot. Have partners work together to write out a list of materials they'll need to build their robot and draw a picture of the robot they want to build. **(Building Relationships)**

Name: _____

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The advice I have for someone who is frustrated:
