

# Ivy + Bean

By Annie Barrows

**Contributed by: Heather Ames**

## **Library of Congress Book Summary:**

When seven-year-old Bean plays a mean trick on her sister, she finds unexpected support for her antics from Ivy, the new neighbor, who is less boring than Bean first suspected.

## **Book Information:**

Time Period: Contemporary

Genre: Contemporary Fiction

## **Author Information**

<http://www.anniebarrows.com/>

This website includes a biography of the author, the *Ivy and Bean* series, crafts, links, and more.

## **Illustrator Information**

<http://www.sophieblackall.com/frameintro.html>

## **Chapter 1**

### Chapter Questions:

1. Do you think Bean's mother keeps bugging her about playing with Ivy because she knows something Bean does not?
2. What were some of Bean's reasons for not wanting to play with Ivy?

3. Predict what you think will happen to change Bean's mind about playing with Ivy.

Journal Writing Topic:

The importance of getting to know someone before assuming you do or do not like them.

## **Chapter 2- "Bean Hatches a Plan"**

Chapter Questions:

1. What do you think about Bean's older sister Nancy? Is she mean to Bean or is she just looking out for her?
2. In what ways are Bean and Nancy similar and how do they differ?
3. What does the title of the chapter tell us about what will happen next?

Journal Writing Topic:

Patience

Vocabulary:

1. Tightwad- someone that does not like to spend money (pp. 17)

## **Chapter 3- "The Ghost of Pancake Court"**

Chapter Questions:

1. What will Nancy's reaction be when she sees the 20 dollar bill?
2. Why did Bean try to scare Ivy by pretending to be a ghost?
3. What is Ivy doing sitting on the porch wearing a, "bathrobe with lots of little pieces of paper stuck to it"? What do you think Ivy is pretending to be?

Journal Writing Topic:

Describe what it would look like if you lived on Pancake Court. Use your five senses to describe what you would see, taste, smell, hear, and feel.

Vocabulary:

1. Cul-de-sac- a street or a lane that ends a big circle (pp. 23)

## **Chapter 4- "Bean Meets Ivy"**

### Chapter Questions:

1. Why were Bean's ideas so off today?
2. Why was Ivy so willing to help Bean escape from Nancy?
3. What do you predict will happen when Bean's mother finds out about the five bad things she did?

### Journal Writing Topic:

What would you have done if you were Bean and your older sister found you waiting in a bush to fool her?

### Vocabulary:

1. Passageway- a secret way to get from one place to another without being seen (pp. 36)

## **Chapter 5- "Ivy Hatches a Plan"**

### Chapter Questions:

1. How has the story changed since the first chapter?
2. Does Ivy really have special powers?
3. Do you think Ivy's plan to put a dancing spell on Nancy will work?

### Journal Writing Topic:

Making new friends.

## **Chapter 6- "Beware"**

### Chapter Questions:

1. Why was Bean so interested in helping Ivy fix her bathrobe?
2. Did Ivy do the right thing by pretending like nothing was going on when she walked into her house with Bean?
3. Why did Ivy have a large poster with "BEWARE" written largely on it?

### Journal Writing Topic:

What five sections would your room be divided into if you had a room like Ivy's?

### Vocabulary:

Mummy- how ancient Egyptians preserved a body with wrappings (pp. 60)

## **Chapter 7- “Easy-Peasy”**

### Chapter Questions:

1. Was Bean’s path back to her house really “easy-peasy”?
2. What would you have done if you were caught by Mrs. Trantz in her yard?  
Was Mrs. Trantz being fair to Bean and Ivy?
3. What would have happened if Ivy had not pretended to be sick?

### Journal Writing Topic:

How would you have traveled back to Bean’s house if you were Bean?

### Vocabulary:

1. Easy-peasy- no problem (pp. 72)

## **Chapter 8- “Bean’s Backyard”**

### Chapter Questions:

1. Before reading this chapter, predict what will happen when Bean and Ivy cross the fence to Bean’s house. Use the title of the chapter as well as the illustration to make your prediction.
2. How did you feel when Nancy was crying at the kitchen table? How did your feelings change when you found out why she was crying?
3. What does Ivy’s reaction to Nancy yelling at Bean tell us about Ivy and Bean’s relationship?

### Journal Writing Topic:

Sympathy

## **Chapter 9- “The Spell”**

### Chapter Questions:

1. How would you have felt if your younger sister and her friend threw worms on your face? Did Nancy deserve to have worms thrown on her face?
2. Did Ivy’s dancing spell really work or was Nancy just slipping in the mud?
3. What will happen when Bean’s mother finds out what Bean and Nancy have been up to? Will she just be happy that the two are finally playing together?

### Journal Writing Topic:

The correct way to handle unfair situations.

## Vocabulary:

Squiggled- to move with a curving motion

## **Chapter 10- “No Dessert”**

### Chapter Questions:

1. Do you think Bean’s mother should have given Bean harsher punishments?
2. What do you see when you visualize Mrs. Trantz slipping in the mud pit?
3. Will Bean and Ivy’s friendship continue to grow?

### Journal Writing Topic:

Predict what will happen in the next “Ivy and Bean” series.

## **Other Works by Annie Barrows:**

*Ivy and Bean: Doomed to Dance*

*Ivy and Bean: Take Care of the Babysitter*

*Ivy and Bean: Break the Fossil Record*

*Ivy and Bean: And the Ghost that Had to Go*

*Ivy and Bean: Bound to Be Bad*

## **Additional Websites:**

[www.chroniclebooks.com/ivyandbean/teachers.html](http://www.chroniclebooks.com/ivyandbean/teachers.html)

Site includes a guide for building a writer’s workshop with Ivy and Bean, an Ivy and Bean teachers’ guide with: word wall, character traits graphic organizer, great class records book, book sharing project, and secret languages- written and spoken. Teacher-created worksheets: design your own “Ivy Room,” Ivy + Bean Book Order Problems, Ivy + Bean Fraction Problems, Ivy + Bean Snacks, and Nancy’s Trip to the Mall.