**Invisible Boy**

**AUTHOR:** Trudy Ludwig  
**ILLUSTRATOR:** Patrice Barton  
**PUBLISHER:** Alfred Knopf  
**COPYRIGHT:** 2013  
**ART MEDIUM:** pencil sketches painted digitally  
**GENRE:** contemporary realistic fiction  
**LIFE SKILLS:** friendship, courage, no put-downs, caring

**SYNOPSIS:**

No one even notices Brian. He isn’t the loud kid, the whiney kid, or the super athletic kid. He is just a quiet kid waiting to get noticed. When a new student joins the class, Brian gently works to become his friend and slowly becomes less invisible.

**BOOKTALK #1:**

Do you sometimes feel like no one even knows you are there? Sometimes we all feel like we are being left out. Brian finds he sometimes feels that way at school. Nathan is loud, and everyone notices him. Sophie complains and everyone notices her. When Brian makes the effort to reach out to a new boy, he begins to feel more noticeable.

**BOOKTALK #2:**

Do you know how it feels to be the only one not invited to a party, or the one the teacher hardly ever notices? Brian almost feels invisible to others. That all begins to change when he notices a new student in class being laughed at during lunch.

**AUTHOR:** Trudy Ludwig

Trudy Ludwig is known for her books on the social interactions of children. Her first book was written after her own daughter was bullied. She is not a trained counselor, but does much research for her books.

Author website: [http://www.trudyludwig.com/author.html](http://www.trudyludwig.com/author.html)

**Other books written by the author:**

- *Better Than You*  
- *Confessions of a Former Bully*  
- *Gifts From the Enemy*  
- *Too Perfect*  
- *Trouble Talk*
ILLUSTRATOR: Patrice Barton

Patrice Barton began drawing at an early age and attended art school in Texas, where she now lives with her family. Illustrator website: [http://patricebarton.com/about/](http://patricebarton.com/about/)

Other books illustrated by the illustrator:

- *I Like Clothes*
- *I Pledge Allegiance*
- *MINE!*
- *Rosie Sprout’s Time to Shine*
- *Year of the Baby*

CHALLENGING WORDS:
- intergalactic
- chopsticks
- Bulgogi

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. The story tells us that Brian doesn’t take up a lot of space. What does that mean? In what way is that a good thing? How might it be a bad thing?
2. Have you ever felt left out? What happens when Brian makes an effort to smile and leave Justin a note?
3. Brian’s picture is black and white at the beginning of the book. When is the first time you see any color in his picture? What part of him is colored on the playground? When is his picture completely colored like the other children? What is the author trying to show us with color?
4. What are some of the things Brian did to feel less invisible? What are some positive things you could do (unlike Nathan and Sophie) to help others notice you?

ACTIVITIES WITH STANDARDS:

Language Arts:

- Show a picture of Brian at the beginning of the book, in black and white. Ask students why they think he is not in color like the rest of the picture. Then show them the picture of Brian smiling, with colored lips and a tint of blush. What actions made him have more color? What happens that makes him fully colored?
**K.RL.2.4, 1.RL.2.4, 2.RL.2.4** Make predictions about what will happen in a story.

**K.RL.4.1 1.RL.4.2, 2.RL.4.1** With support, describe the relationship between illustrations and the story in which they appear.

**Science:**

- **Make Invisible Ink:** [http://www.sciencekids.co.nz/experiments/invisibleink.html](http://www.sciencekids.co.nz/experiments/invisibleink.html)

  Using q-tips, lemon juice and paper, have students write an invisible note. It should be one “kind” sentence. Examples: Thank you; You are nice; I liked your drawing, etc. It does not have to be addressed to anyone in particular. Have students exchange papers and, using a warm light or hairdryer, have students read the note they received as it appears.

  **Process Standards:** The Nature of Science: Generate questions and make observations about natural processes.

  **Standard 1: Physical Science**

  **Core Standard:** Observe and describe that the properties of Materials can change, but not all materials respond in the same way to the same action. (2.1.1, 2.1.1, 2.1.3)

**RELATED INTERNET SITES:**

C Jayne Teach

Trudy Ludwig Resources
[http://www.trudyludwig.com/resources_core.html](http://www.trudyludwig.com/resources_core.html)

**Activity #1:** Be a Friend

**Activity #2:** Top 10 Ways to be a Friend