

Bookfolio for **The Pinballs**

Author: [Betsy Byars](#)

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Recommended for: [Grades 5-8](#)

Classification: Fiction

Genre: [Realistic Fiction](#)

Story Summary: Three foster children who have individually suffered, enter the Masons' home. Carlie has suffered physical abuse from a stepfather. Harvey has suffered two broken legs and has been run over by his alcoholic father. Thomas J was abandoned at age two; then he was raised for six years by an elderly pair of twins not capable of fulfilling his needs. Carlie confers the name "pinballs" on them because they get knocked around by others and cannot help what happens to them. However, through the efforts of the Masons and Carlie, the oldest of the three children, all of the children make great progress towards controlling their own lives and resolve that they will no longer be pinballs.

Read-aloud Recommendation: Chapter 2, pages 9 - 13

**The skills for each activity are identified by the following abbreviations:
R=Reading, W=Writing, S=Speaking, L=Listening, D=Drawing**

The Pinballs - Independent Activities	Skills
1. A Flashback Scene (Using flashback)	S , W
2. A Stricter Parent (Rewriting a scene)	S , W
3. Another Byars Classic (Giving a book talk)	R , S
4. A Funeral Eulogy (Orating a eulogy)	S , W
5. Accomplishments (Conducting a poll)	D , W
6. Pets and Patients (Researching a topic)	D , R , W
The Pinballs - Group Activities	Skills
1. What's Out of Date? (Dating a story)	S , W
2. Female Protagonists (Comparing female protagonists)	S , W
3. An Interview With Carlie (Conducting an interview)	S , W
4. Readers Theatre (Presenting a Readers Theatre)	S
5. The Future (Predicting characters' futures)	S , W
6. "Let's Talk About..." (Discussing the story)	L , S

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