



RULES of the ROAD

By Joan Bauer ★

**Winner of the
Los Angeles Times
Book Prize**

**Enhanced Reading Guide by
Robert C. Bergstrom**



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Getting Started:

You will be directed to READ / REACT / RESPOND.

1. Look for the author's unique style and the voice used to tell the story.
2. Watch the story unfold as you get to know the main character / narrator and the supporting characters.
3. Notice how details and descriptions about the setting and story events make this "realistic fiction" story come alive.
4. Be actively involved in the story and develop your reading skills as you focus on:
 - OPINION: What do you personally think about what has just happened in the story?
 - PREDICTION: What do you think is going to happen next? Why?
 - PERSONALIZED RESPONSE: If you were the character, what would you do in this situation?
 - QUESTION: Answer a reading guide question or ask a question of your own about something you would like to know.
 - EMOTIONAL RESPONSE: Tell about something you read that made you feel angry, sad, happy, etc.
 - INFERENTIAL RESPONSE: Come to a conclusion by putting some of the key facts together. Will you be correct?
 - KEEPING ON READING: Be compelled to continue reading to find out what will happen next and ultimately how the story is resolved.



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Before Reading:

Answer these personal response questions in your Journal:

1. How old are you today?
2. When is your birthday?
3. What is the legal driving age in your state?
4. When do you plan on getting a learner's permit and learning to drive a car?
5. What kind of a car would you like to drive?
6. What kind of car/cars does your family have?
7. Have you ever taken a long road trip by car?
8. If so, where did you go?
9. Have you ever ridden in a big Cadillac? How did it feel?
10. Define "Realistic Fiction".

Give the book ***RULES of the ROAD*** a good "first look":

1. What does the cover picture tell you?
2. What awards or prizes has this book won?
3. After reading the BOOK BLURB (on the back cover or inside jacket) what does this story seem to be all about?
4. Who are the main characters in this story?
5. What have the reviewers said about this book?
6. How many pages and how many chapters are in this book?
7. What did you find out about the author Joan Bauer?
8. Have you read any other books by this author?
9. What age level does this book seem written for?
10. What is the setting for this book?



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READ / REACT / RESPOND: Chapter 1

- Read on your own silently.
 - Read together orally with a class or a friend.
 - React to what you read by noting the author's feeling and tone.
 - React to what you read by discussing the characters and story.
 - Respond to what you read by answering the following in your ROAD JOURNAL:
1. What is the setting for the start of this novel?
 - Where?
 - When?
 - What is an El Train?
 2. Who is the main character / narrator?
 - How old is she?
 - Describe her.
 3. List other interesting characters you meet early on in this book.
 4. List three (3) things that Jenna is proud of and excited about in her life right now as the story starts.
 5. What job does Jenna have?
 - Why does Jenna like her job so much?
 - Picture and describe the Shoe Store.
 - What does Jenna think about her boss Murray Castlebaum?
 - What "nickname" does she give him? Why?
 - What does he teach Jenna?
 - What "slogan" is on a white sign above the door?
 6. What problems does Jenna have with her father?
 - How does he sound when he talks? Why is Jenna upset?
 - How does Jenna deal with her father?
 - What does this statement mean, "Dad always made an entrance"?
 - What memories does Jenna have of her father and his actions?
 7. What is one of Jenna's most "prized possessions"?
 8. List three (3) areas of concern in Jenna's life right now.
 9. **THINK ABOUT:** Does this story remind you of issues in your own life?
What similarities do you have with Jenna?
What differences do you have?



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READ / REACT / RESPOND: Chapters 2 and 3

- Read on.
 - React to what you read by noting the new situations Jenna faces.
 - Respond to what you read by answering the following in your ROAD JOURNAL:
1. What is Mrs. Gladstone's reaction to Jenna's father?
 - How is this helpful to her?
 2. Who writes a note to Jenna?
 - What do we learn about Jenna's mother even before we get to meet her?
 - What is Jenna's relationship with her mother like?
 3. Describe Jenna's sister Faith.
 4. What wording does Faith use for how Jenna must have felt when their father came to the store? (p 16).
 5. How are Faith and Jenna different?
 6. What offer does Madeline Gladstone make?
 7. What is her "vehicle of choice"?
 8. Who does Jenna visit?
 9. List the "three A's" that Jenna is worried about.
 10. Picture and describe with details Mrs. Gladstone's house.
 - Why is it called a "brownstone"?
 11. Describe Mrs. Gladstone's car.
 12. What kind of a person does Mrs. Gladstone seem to be?
 13. Who is Jenna's best friend? What are her main interests?
 14. THINK ABOUT: How does this remind you of a job you've had?
Do you think Jenna is capable of such a job?
Predict where you think this story is going.



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READ / REACT / RESPOND: Chapters 4 - 5 - 6

- Read on.
 - React to what you read by anticipating what Jenna will do.
 - Respond to what you read by answering the following in your ROAD JOURNAL:
1. What decisions or difficulties does Jenna have driving the car?
 - What word for “huge” does she use to describe the car? (top p. 34)
 2. What does Mrs. Gladstone want to hire Jenna to do?
 3. Where does Mrs. Gladstone want to go?
 4. Look again at the front cover of the book and predict what Jenna will do.
 5. Explain what role her mother has in Jenna leaving town.
 6. Why does the author use “*words in italics*” in chapter 5 (pp. 38 – 39)?
 7. What was Opal’s reaction to Jenna’s job offer?
 8. What effect did the phone calls from her father have on Jenna’s decision?
 9. List several things Jenna is worried about as she plans to leave on her trip to Texas.
 10. What does Jenna do to help her Grandmother with her disease?
 11. GO DEEPER: Make a chart in your journal to explore two “real life issues” that Jenna is having to face:

ALCOHOLISM

ALZHEIMER'S

Define them

Explain relationship
to the story

Add any personal
reflections or
connections



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READ / REACT / RESPOND: Chapters 7 - 8

- Read on.
- React to what you read by exploring word meanings.
- React to what you read by evaluating Jenna on her new job.
- Respond to what you read by answering the following in your ROAD JOURNAL:

Authors use good words to give us a good picture.

Find each word below in chapter 7.

Write the sentence it is found in to see "the context."

Match the word with the correct meaning.

- | | |
|----------------------------|--|
| p. 46 _____ suffocating | A. excitement shown in actions |
| p. 46 _____ itinerary | B. heavy constant storm |
| p. 47 _____ metaphorically | C. travel plans |
| p. 47 _____ hydroplaning | D. bias / unfair perception |
| p. 47 _____ prejudice | E. gas pedal in a car |
| p. 48 _____ accelerator | F. pushing all the air out |
| p. 49 _____ torrential | G. stupid / not making any sense |
| p. 49 _____ enthusiasm | H. slipping on water |
| p. 51 _____ widowed | I. husband has died |
| p. 55 _____ shoddy | J. not literal / in a figure of speech |
| | K. good merchandise |
| | L. poor quality |

1. Infer character feelings, actions and motivations to understand how Jenna and Mrs. Gladstone are getting along.
 - How is Jenna doing with her new job?
 - What problems does Mrs. Gladstone seem to have?
2. What does Jenna notice was wrong about the Peoria shoe store?
 - Describe Miles.
 - Who hired him?
3. What does Mrs. Gladstone keep doing with her cane? Why?
4. List some of the travel adventures that Jenna is experiencing.
5. How does Mrs. Gladstone define "Quality"?
6. Why is Jenna becoming more and more concerned about Mrs. Gladstone?



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READ / REACT / RESPOND: Chapters 9 – 10 – 11

- Read on.
- React to what you read by forming judgments about the personal values of the story characters.
- React to the humor the author uses in tough situations.
- React to the “one-liners” the author uses to sum up a situation.
- Respond to what you read by answering the following in your ROAD JOURNAL:

1. Explain what happens at the Honest Abe Pancake House.
 - Have you ever had an experience like this?
2. What is meant by the line: “Deception was everywhere.”? (p. 69)
3. How does Jenna enjoy her role as a “shoe spy”?
4. What does Jenna “find out” when she goes to snoop?
5. How is Jenna a “hero” to the lady buying shoes?
6. What qualities and insights does Jenna see in people like Margaret Lundstrom and Elden?
7. Explain what Jenna means when she says: “Save it, Mrs. Gladstone, for the real fight. You know?” (p. 86)
8. GO DEEPER: Jenna is learning the “Rules of the Road for driving” and the “Rules of the Road for life” at the same time. Make a chart in your ROAD JOURNAL and list some important lessons or rules she has learned under each. Compare your reflections with a fellow reader.

RULES FOR DRIVING

RULES FOR LIFE



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READ / REACT / RESPOND: Chapters 12 – 13 – 14

- Read on as they journey on
 - React to what you read by noticing descriptive details.
 - React to the story by noticing how Jenna repeats and writes down what Harry tells her.
 - Respond to what you read by answering the following in your ROAD JOURNAL:
1. When Jenna sees all the food available from room service, she uses the word “bingeing.” (p. 93) What does it mean?
 - Binge eating or drinking has become a problem for some teens.
 - Explain how you feel about this problem.
 2. What does Mrs. Gladstone ask Jenna to do for her at the hotel in St. Louis? Why?
 - How does she handle this task?
 - What phrase of Harry’s makes Mrs. Gladstone laugh?
 - What does it mean?
 - How does Jenna feel when she accomplishes this task?
 3. What does the organization “A. A.” stand for?
 - What does the 2nd A word mean?
 - Who is in A. A.? For how long? Who should be in A. A.?
 - Copy the A. A. Motto (p. 99) into your journal.
 4. Identify and describe Alice Lovett.
 - What role does she play in this story?
 - What are some of the weird expressions she uses?
 - What humorous figure of speech (simile) is used for putting Mrs. Gladstone in a wheelchair? (p. 102)
 5. Why is Elden seen as “the enemy”?
 6. In anger, Mrs. Gladstone uses the word “atrocious.” (p. 105) Why?
 7. Choose three (3) of the “one-liner phrases” from p. 108. Write them in your journal and explain what you think they might mean to Jenna.
 8. The author uses a “flashback” when Jenna starts to think of her father.
 - What did he always like and take good care of? What color?
 - How does Jenna feel about her relationship with her father?
 - What word is misspelled at the bottom of p. 109? Why?
 9. GO DEEPER: Find more information about A. A. using an Internet search.



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READ / REACT / RESPOND: Chapters 15 – 16

- Read on as they are getting closer to Dallas.
 - React to what you read by noticing the sequence of events and cities they pass through.
 - Respond to what you read by answering the following in your ROAD JOURNAL:
1. Who is Ken Woldman?
 - What are his stores called?
 - What is his “motto”?
 - What kind of person do you think he is?
 2. Once again, what is Jenna’s role at the downtown Kansas City shoe store?
 - What does she notice about that store?
 - What is she called upon to do there?
 - How does the author use humor to show how Jenna has matured?
 3. Make a LIST OF THE CITIES the author cites that Jenna drives though. (Check pages 49, 57, 60, 88, 113, 116, and 121 to get a complete list.)
 - FIND these cities on a United States road map.
 - TRACE Jenna’s car route on the map with a highlighter.
 - Begin with Chicago, Illinois and end in Dallas, Texas.
 - How does having an actual car route make this story more realistic?
 4. What does the author mean by the comment: (p. 119) *“By the time we zoomed onto Interstate 20 heading west to Dallas, we had more horsepower in the backseat than we did under the hood.”*?
 - What does this tell you about Mrs. Gladstone? About Jenna?
 5. What does Jenna notice about Texas?
 6. Describe Mrs. Gladstone’s Highland Park home in Dallas.
 - Who is there to “greet” them?
 - What does he persist in doing?
 7. Make a chart in your journal to show the differences between what Elden wants and what Mrs. Gladstone wants:

ELDEN

“decent” is good enough

MRS. GLADSTONE

“quality” is what people want

8. How does Elden treat Jenna?



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READ / REACT / RESPOND: Chapters 17 – 18 – 19

- Read on as the plot thickens.
 - React to what you read by picturing the details.
 - React to personal feelings about characters and situations.
 - Respond to what you read by answering the following in your ROAD JOURNAL:
1. Describe the downtown Dallas Gladstone Shoe Store.
 2. Jenna finally gets to meet Harry Bender. Describe him.
 - What makes Harry Bender such a great salesman?
 - How does he make people feel?
 - What was his conversation on his cell phone all about?
 - What thought does Jenna have at the end of Chapter 17?
 3. The letter Jenna receives from her mother in Chapter 18 causes Jenna to have a flashback.
 - What memory (about the white phone) does Jenna have with a “sickening anxiety?”
 - What other memory does Jenna recall about her past?
 4. In Chapter 18, for the first time, the author reveals the first names of Jenna’s mother and father in a clever way.
 - The mother is a nurse named Mrs. _____ Boller.
 - The father had a call for a Mr. _____ Boller.
 - Why do you think the author does this at this point in the story?
 5. What is Jenna having “done to her” at the end of Chapter 18 and beginning of Chapter 19?
 - Who is doing this?
 - How does it make her feel?
 6. Characters in the story can be seen doing “up-to-date things” today’s readers can relate to. Make a list of actions, events, or items mentioned in the story that illustrate this. Compare your list with another reader.
 - Harry Bender using a cell phone. (p. 130)
 - Jenna using the library computer to do an Internet search. (p. 142)
 - Jenna making copies on a Xerox machine. (p. 144)
 7. GO DEEPER: Find more information about Al-Anon or being a sponsor in A. A.



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READ / REACT / RESPOND: Chapters 20 – 21 – 22

- Read on.
 - React to the people skills employed by Harry and Jenna.
 - React to personal feelings about characters and situations.
 - Respond to what you read by answering the following in your ROAD JOURNAL:
1. Copy the quote in the first sentence of Chapter 20 in your journal.
 - List examples of actions from the book that support this phrase.
 - What can you do better in this regard with your friends and people you meet?
 2. Who teaches Jenna to do the “Texas two-step”?
 - What is her initial reaction?
 - How is Jenna’s self-concept changing?
 - Think of a time in your life when you did something new and how it made you feel.
 3. What are Harry Bender’s “two golden sales rules” he shares with Jenna?
 - Explain them?
 - What “golden rules” do you live by?
 4. Write the last sentence from page 152 in your journal.
 - Jenna calls this “the gift” that Harry gave them.
 - Why does Mrs. Gladstone rely so heavily on Harry?
 - What does Jenna share with Harry?
 - What is Harry planning to do to try to “save the company”?
 5. What is in the envelope Mrs. Gladstone gives to Jenna?
 - What does this make Jenna now?
 6. What shocking news does Jenna receive at 2:13 a.m.?
 - Describe the people and feelings at the Halverston Funeral Home.
 - What is Jenna’s personal reaction to all of this?
 - What “slogan” is engraved on the headstone at the cemetery?
 7. What was the “tone” of the many thoughts expressed at the funeral?
 - What was Jenna brave enough to say?
 - How did people respond to what she said?
 - Did the events in this sad chapter remind you of anything you have experienced in your own life? Write your personal thoughts in your journal or share with a friend or a fellow reader.



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READ / REACT / RESPOND: Chapters 23 – 24 – 25

- Read on.
 - React to personal feelings about characters and situations.
 - Respond to what you read by answering the following in your ROAD JOURNAL:
1. What important climactic event is coming soon?
 2. What reflections on “death” do Mrs. Gladstone and Jenna share with each other?
 - Explain how food can “bring comfort.”
 3. What observations and words of advice does Jenna offer to Mrs. Gladstone?
 - Who taught Jenna these strong life lessons?
 - What happens next?
 4. Retell the sequence of Jenna’s journey to get to the stockholder’s meeting: (p. 170 – 176)
 - “I pulled up...” p. 170
 - “I parked....”
 - “I stepped back...”
 -
 -
 5. Reread and explain the impact of the words the author places *in italics*: “fired”, “ever”, “No one!” (middle p. 171)
 6. How did the cab driver help Jenna decide what to do?
 7. Even though Jenna says, “I hate public speaking,” she stands up, speaks out, and saves the day.
 - Where does she find the courage to do this?
 - What differences do her words make?
 - Why is she almost not able to speak out?
 - Explain how she speaks from a “teenage perspective.”
 - How does Jenna rate herself after this brave speech?
 - What do people “write in” on their ballots?
 - List the reactions of the people in this exciting chapter:
Ken Woldman
Madeline Gladstone
Elden Gladstone



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READ / REACT / RESPOND: Chapters 26 – 27 – 28

- Read on beyond this climax of events to see how the story reaches resolution.
- React to your final experience with the characters as this story draws to a close.
- Predict what you think will finally happen.
- Respond to what you read by answering the following in your ROAD JOURNAL:

1. Why are so few words devoted to the return trip back home?
2. What comparison does Jenna make with the “Chicago skyline”?
3. Upon their return to Chicago, is Jenna through driving for Mrs. Gladstone? What else do you think she may end up doing?
4. The . . . at the top of p. 187 signals a return to the main storyline: “We spent days catching up.” Write a brief summary of “all that happened” while Jenna was away on her job.
5. Who pulls up beside Jenna as she is going to Opal’s house?
 - What does he force Jenna to do?
 - What does Jenna notice is wrong about this situation?
 - Explain what Jenna does to stop this wrong.
 - (p. 189 middle) Why does Jenna shout, “This is the hardest thing I’ve ever had to do”? What happens?
 - A fast thought races through Jenna’s head. Read the quote in *italics* at the bottom of p. 189. Who is Jenna thinking about?
6. Jenna, her mother, and her sister Faith all experience a lot of pain because of the father’s problem.
 - Besides “swallowing the pain” (p. 192), what are some ways Jenna deals with this problem?
 - Have you or anyone you know had to deal with a similar problem?
 - Where can you get help or support?
7. Write an explanation of what Jenna “finally buys” that she has always wanted. See related “Notice the cars” activity.
8. Where does Jenna go in her new car?
 - What promise does she fulfill to her grandmother?
 - What does she tell her about her own experiences?
 - How has Jenna changed?
9. As the story ends, what issue does Jenna confront and resolve?
 - Where does Jenna meet her dad?
 - What does Jenna have to say to her dad?
 - What does she mean by “I’ve changed.”? (p. 199 middle)
 - What is her dad’s response?
 - When Jenna finally speaks the truth, how does it make her feel?
 - What “life lessons” does Jenna’s tough situation help teach her?
 - At the very end of the story, how does Jenna view herself?



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READING ACTIVITIES: AFTER FINISHING THE BOOK

1. Compose a Letter to Jenna...

Write a letter of encouragement and advice to Jenna Boller. She has had to deal with many new issues in the book ***RULES of the ROAD***. Include in your letter possible ideas you can share with her for dealing with:

- ALCOHOLISM (with her father it was "tough love" at the end.)
- ALZHEIMER'S (how both she and Faith dealt with their grandmother.)
- ASSERTIVENESS (learning to speak up and stand up for what is right.)

2. Find and listen to sound effects in the story...

The author cleverly uses "sound effects" to help the reader "hear" the story. Find these examples:

Reread p. 154 "knock on door" - "knock came louder"

- What does a knocking in the middle of the night like this usually signify?
- Why is someone knocking at the door?

Reread top of p. 169 "Whack"

- What makes this noise?
- What is a "banister"?
- Why is Mrs. Gladstone making this gesture?
- What does this show about her?

Reread bottom of p. 175 "strong rat-a-tat"

- Who is knocking?
- What opens?
- Make this loud "rat-a-tat" noise with your knuckles on a table or desk. Does this word describe the sound accurately?
- What happens next in this scene.

Now with a fellow reading partner, find more examples of "sound effects" in this novel. LIST THEM. How do these "noises" make the story more real? Discuss with the class or a fellow reader other sounds you heard while reading this realistic fiction book.

3. Learn about shoes and the job...

Jenna had to learn a lot to be successful in the shoe business. Reread bottom of p. 59.

- LIST some things Jenna learned to help her better understand the shoe business.
- Explain (with examples from the story) how she became a really good shoe salesperson.
- Who helped to teach her what she needed to learn?



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- Notice how the author matches people, their personalities, and their lifestyles with the shoes they wear. Go back into the story and LIST some of the people and find out what kind of shoes they wore:
 - Harry Bender – *Italian handsewn leather cowboy boots*
 - Carol Boller – *White comfortable nurse shoes*
 - Jenna –
 - Mrs. Gladstone –
 - Others –
- Every occupation has inside knowledge one needs to know to be successful. Think of a job you have, for example: mowing lawns, household chores, school related tasks, sports, baby sitting, fast food business, etc. LIST some of the important things you need to know and understand for your job.

4. Hunt Headlines!

The author uses Jenna's voice in a clever HEADLINE FORMAT. In this way Jenna announces to herself and to the world a summary of what is happening in her life.

- Find these examples listed below (and others you may locate).
- Reread them and explain what they mean in the story context.
- (p. 11 top) DRUNKEN DAD DISGRACES DAUGHTER
- (p. 38 top) TRUSTED TEEN TAKES TEXAS BY STORM
- (p. 173) DEFEATED TEEN DEPARTS DALLAS
- (p. 190) TERRIFIED TEEN HAS DRUNK FATHER ARRESTED
- (p. 191) CLEAN TEEN FACES WORLD – VOWS TO FIGHT ON
- Find more examples of this writing technique and list the headlines in your journal.
- Print some of these headlines in LARGE FONT on a piece of poster paper. Show them to the class or a small group and use them as a way to review the story.
- Make a newspaper page using one or more of the headlines. Below the headline write an accompanying story with details from the book. Add pictures or graphics to make it look like a real newspaper. How about a shoe store advertisement?



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5. Notice the cars...

Cars play an interesting and intriguing role throughout this story, from the title and cover picture to the very end.

SKIM through the chapters and find references to cars.

LIST references to cars, tell who owns them, and describe them:

(some examples below)

- (p. 22 top, p 28 bottom) Mom's 12-year-old Honda Civic.
- (p. 22, 28, 60) Mrs. Gladstone's White Cadillac.
- (p. 12) Dad's broken-down Dodge.
- (p. 108) Dad's love for lots of new cars - "always red".
- (p. 188) Dad's little gray Saturn.
- (p. 193) Jenna's own red Chevy Cavalier.

TRACE the idea of owning a "red car" throughout the story.

- (p. 8) Jenna's big plan at the end of the summer
- (p. 61) Jenna sees a license plate. What does it say?
- (p. 108) Where did Jenna get her love for red cars?
- (p. 193) Jenna's wish comes true.

MAKE A COLLAGE POSTER with car pictures.

- Find suitable pictures you can cut out of magazines, newspapers, or computer graphics.
- Draw and color a car picture that fits a description of one in the book.
- Label the cars and tell whom they would belong to in the story and how they relate to the story line.
- Put the book title and author information on your poster and present it to the class.

6. Write about a theme from the book...

Choose a theme from this book to explore further. Write about what the theme means in the book and what it means to you in your own life. Use your reader's response journal and the book itself to find examples to give your writing substance.

Suggested themes:

- Learning to do a new job well.
- Learning to drive a car.
- Being away from home.
- Stepping up to the plate / standing up for what is right and just.
- Relating to people of various ages and stages (older, younger, family members, bosses, etc.).
- Dealing with issues (such as Alzheimer's, alcoholism, prejudice, loyalty, friendship).
- Being responsible.
- Buying shoes.
- Making a difference in the world.



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7. Work with words...

The author uses quality descriptive vocabulary throughout the book.

- Find the words listed below in a passage from Chapter 25.
- Reread the pages noticing the “words in context.”
- Make a word chart and fill it in with a “synonym” or “definition” to show meaning.

<u>Location</u>	<u>Vocabulary in Context</u>	<u>Means...</u>
p. 175 line 9	brusquely	
line 11	perception	
line 18	din	
p. 176 line 6	bun	
line 12	investments	
line 23	droning	
line 25	emphatic	
p. 177 line 22	podium	
p. 179 line 7	unequivocally	
line 14	audible	
line 21	charisma	
line 27	merger	

- Locate another short passage from the book and identify 10 or 12 new or interesting vocabulary words like the ones in the list above. Make a list of them and give to a fellow reader. After you exchange lists, go back and reread the passage and identify the meaning of the words from context.

8. Find comfort in food...

Find the passage on p. 18 where Jenna cooks her speciality.

- Describe it.
- Who taught her how?
- Locate the place in the story where later on she shares this same food with Mrs. Gladstone.
- What is her reaction?
- Make Jenna’s specialty and treat your class.
- What other food references can you find in this story?
- List them.
- Write a short article or prepare a short speech about the importance of food and how food can bring comfort. Give examples from this book and from others you may have read. Make sure you read *Hope Was Here*, by Joan Bauer, to see the power of food.



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Explore web sites for references to this novel:

<http://www.gananda.k12.ny.us/library/mshslibrary/NEWBKS.HTM>

Read book reviews and see the book cover

RULES of the ROAD by Joan Bauer

Joan Bauer has written many hilarious books for teenagers such as **Squashed** and **Sticks**. This book continues in that tradition. Jenna Boller feels like a misfit at school - but she shines in her after school job selling shoes. She catches the attention of the elderly store owner who hires Jenna to be her driver on a business trip. During their comical visits to other stores across the country, Jenna learns to love her somewhat gruff employer and the equally elderly friend Harry who becomes the father Jenna always wished she had. This book is funny, sad, and altogether a delight to read.



<http://www.teenreads.com/authors/au-bauer-joan.asp>

Read an interesting Author Interview with Joan Bauer. Here is an excerpt:

"I never sold shoes like Jenna in **RULES of the ROAD**, but I was in space sales for ten years and my father was a fine salesman, so I pulled from those experiences and stuck them in this unusual shoe business that not many people know much about. Selling happens all around us -- some of it is hype and some of it, like Jenna's brand, is honorable. I wanted to show the difference. Also, I loved the metaphor of shoes taking us down life's road. Selling shoes doesn't sound very exciting -- all those smelly feet -- but Jenna finds great excitement and passion in it."



RULES OF THE ROAD by Joan Bauer

Winner of the *Los Angeles Times* Book Prize

About the writer of this Enhanced Reading and Teaching Guide:

Robert C. (Bob) Bergstrom retired in June 2002 after teaching over 6000 students, working in secondary Reading, English, and Social Studies for 37 years, most of them at Shaler Area School District in suburban Pittsburgh, PA. He now looks forward to the next new chapter in his life. Bob has a passion for language arts education and issues involving improving literacy. He has served as a Language Arts Consultant, Communication Arts Department Chairperson, Theme Coordinator, Motivational Speaker, Workshop Presenter at state and national conferences, as well as a classroom teacher of children and adults.

Bob was named the 2001 Teacher Excellence Foundation "Teacher of the Year," representing teachers from thirty-nine school districts in the greater Pittsburgh area and all of Southwestern Pennsylvania. Bob and his wife, Leah, have two natural children, have taken in 15 foster children over the years, have adopted four children, and now have a grandchild with more on the way. Bob is active in community activities, issues involving special needs children, and in his church where, among other things, he teaches a large adult Sunday School class. He and his wife love to travel and read and spend time with their large family.



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About the author:

In her seven novels, **Joan Bauer** explores difficult issues with humor and hope. Her books have won numerous awards, among them the Newbery Honor Medal, *The LA Times* Book Prize, the Christopher Award, and the Golden Kite Award of the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators. A *New York Times* best-selling author, she has been interviewed on radio shows nationwide and appeared on both network and cable television.

Other Honors: Joan has also been the recipient of the Michigan Thumbs-Up! Award for Children's Literature, the Delacorte Prize for a First Young Adult Novel, the New England Booksellers Award, and the Boston Public Library's "Literary Light" Award. Her novels have been chosen for many best book lists, among them ALA Notable Books, ALA Best Books, ALA Quick Picks, American Bookseller Pick of the List, School Library Journal Best Book, Smithsonian Best Books, the New York Public Library's Books for the Teen Age. ***RULES of the ROAD*** was chosen as one of the top young adult books of the last 25 years by the American Library Association.

Joan lives in Brooklyn, New York, with her husband, computer scientist Evan Bauer, and (when she's home from college) their no-longer-teenage daughter.