## Smile

## Raina Telgemeier

## LOUISIANA YOUNG READERS’ CHOICE NOMINEE 2013

**GRADE**  **6-8**

Submitted by (LeVette Fuller, Teen Services Associate, Shreve Memorial Library, Shreveport, LA.

**SUMMARY**

Twelve year old Girl Scout Raina carpools home from her scout meeting with her friends Jenny and Kelli. When she exits the car and heads to the front door of her home, she trips, falls and knocks out her two front teeth. After closer examination, the dentist determines that one of the teeth is actually pushed into her gum. Raina’s curious class mates taunt and tease her. She must endure many trips to the dentist, several trips to orthodontist for braces and also trips to the endodontist for gum surgeries. As high school begins Raina’s interests change. Her old friends become bullies and seem determined to humiliate her. Raina searches for new friends with similar interests. Finally, Raina’s braces come off in time for graduation.

**AWARDS**

Eisner Award Winner 2011

**AUTHOR’S BIOGRAPHY**

Raina Telgemeier grew up in San Francisco, and moved to New York City to study illustration at the School of Visual Arts. Her comics have been nominated for the Ignatz, Cybil, and Eisner Awards, and have appeared on the web, in magazines, and in various anthologies. She is the adaptor and illustrator of the Baby-sitters Club graphic novels, which were selected by YALSA for their Great Graphic Novels for Teens list in 2006, as well as ALA's Top 10 Graphic Novels for Youth list. *from www.scholastic.com*

**CLASSROOM CONNECTIONS**

**Reading**

1. Since this book is a memoir, students may outline pivotal events that included in the story.
2. Choose one of the following events to rewrite as a narrative.
	1. Raina’s initial fall that causes her injuries.
	2. One of Raina’s visits to the orthodontist.
	3. Raina’s trip to see *The Little Mermaid* film which influences her desire to be an artist.
	4. Raina’s first day of high school.

**History and Science**

1. Have students research and present facts about the earthquake that happens on page 65.

* 1. Discuss the historical facts of the earthquake
	2. Discuss the geological reasons for the earthquake

**Creative Writing and Art**

1. Since this memoir is also a graphic novel have students create a personal story about an important memory. Create comic strips based on these personal stories.

**Lesson Plans online**

* + <http://www.graphicclassroom.org/2011/12/smile.html> This site gives curriculum ideas for using the images in the book to understand building a narrative.

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

1. Describe Raina as a character. List her character traits.
2. What are some of Raina’s challenges in the story?
3. How does she handle her challenges?
4. What are Raina’s friends like? How do they react to her surgeries and braces?
5. How do Raina’s friends change throughout the book?
6. Why do you think the author chose to make this story into a graphic novel? Does it matter that this story is based on the author’s life? Why or Why not?