

A Whole New Ballgame

By: Phil Bildner

1. Who is Rip's friend? Describe him.
Blake Daniels – Nickname Red since that is the color of his hair. He likes routines and always follows them. He gets extra help in class mostly with his writing since he has autism. He also does not like loud noises. He is an awesome 3-point shooter.
2. What is Rip's real name? How did he get his nickname?
Mason Irving. He got his nickname from basketball. He is like the Detroit Piston's Rip Hamilton. He is always running around and never stops moving.
3. What is the thing that Rip says about himself?
He always does play-by-play basketball announcing throughout the day.
4. What did the boys notice immediately when entering school for the first day?
Ms. Darling, the principal, was not standing at the front doors.
Ms. Waldron, the parent coordinator, was not sitting at the desk under the announcement monitor.
Ms. Hamburger was not in the fifth grade class – it was a man.
5. What things does Mr. Acevedo announce that he does not like?
Homework, worksheets, and tests.
6. What did Mr. Acevedo do during the first break on the first day of school?
He hung a sign around his neck that said: "Reading – Do not disturb." He took a book out and read silently to himself for 15 minutes while the kids found something to do.
7. On the first day of school, what did Mr. Acevedo have everyone do?
They all had to tell something about themselves.
8. Who is the teacher that works with Red?
Ms. Yvonne
9. What happened the first day of basketball?
They expected the high school coach. It was Mr. Acevedo and all the kids from around the district. They found out that it was going to have tryouts and that they were going to have to play other schools. They thought that Red would not be able to be on the team. Mr. Acevedo said that he had talked to Red's mom and he could be on the team by coming to practices and games, but not playing at the games.
10. What does Mr. Acevedo have that Rip notices at basketball practice?
Tattoos.

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11. How did Rip expect the team to do at games during the season?
He expected the team to lose every game because all the people who were trying out were very bad.
12. What do the kids need every day for class?
Something to read for Free Choice. They would be reading everyday according to Mr. Acevedo.
13. What was special about when Mr. Acevedo read aloud?
He would use voices and it would almost be like he was acting the book out.
14. Explain the first writing assignment in the journal.
Mr. Acevedo made all the kids climb on their desk and write about how things looked different up there and what new things they saw.
15. How did Avery participate in the first writing assignment?
Avery was in a wheelchair. Mr. Acevedo called the custodian to bring him a ladder. Avery was able to climb the ladder herself and do the writing assignment up there.
16. What was the first homework assignment and where do the kids find it?
The assignment is to write the 5 most disgusting, nastiest, grossest things they could think of. They can only find the homework assignments online at the class webpage.
17. What is the class project for Mr. Acevedo's room?
They will be writing a book about the nastiest thing they can think of. This will be done with a partner that Mr. Acevedo choose for them.
18. Who was Rip's partner and what happens when they have to interview each other?
His partner is Avery Goodman. She refused to do the interview. She said that she already knew everything she needed to know about him. According to her everyone in the class already is defined.
19. What did the basketball team practice on the first night as a team? What did they do on the second?
On the first night they practiced defense. On the second night they practiced rebounding.
20. What game do Rip and Red play when they are at home hanging out?
HORSE – a basketball shooting game.
21. What was the first book that Mr. Acevedo read to them during Teacher's Theater Time?
Lawn Boy

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22. What was the assignment on the first Fix It Friday?
To edit a letter from Mr. Acevedo's principal from when he was little.
23. What are the parents and Avery worried about?
The class is not doing test prep – a bunch of workbooks/worksheets that prepare you to take the district/state tests.
24. What was Rip's mom's advice for dealing with Avery?
That Rip need to make the extra effort like he did/does with Red. If he make the extra effort, Avery will come around.
25. What is Avery and Rip's topic for the project?
Disgusting things that have gotten stuck in Avery's wheels on her wheelchair. They come up with the topic after Rip asks her if she ever got a flat tire.
26. What is the name of the basketball team the boys play on?
Clifton United
27. Why was Rip worried at the beginning of the first basketball game?
At the end of the first quarter the score was 10-0. They were being shut out and the other team was bigger, faster, and better then them.
28. What does Red do during basketball games?
He sits on the bench with his earplugs in and cheers for the kids on his team.
29. What was the outcome of the Back to School Night?
Mr. Acevedo was going to make some changes to the project to make the parents feel better. The parents want him to teach the test questions.
30. What were the changes to the project that Mr. Acevedo made? What was Red's reaction?
Everyone is going to have to do an oral presentation. Red yells "no" and runs away into the building back to Room 208. He does not want to do the oral presentation. (Mr. Acevedo says no one will make him do what he does want to do.)
31. What happened at the first Millwood game?
The Clifton United team was losing. Millwood's coach was a bully. He kept yelling at the players. He had his players cherry picking the Clifton United team. Rip's team played "keep-away" the second half of the game.

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32. What happened with Red at the first Millwood game?
He refused to come out of the locker room after half time because of the crazy coach. Coach Acevedo stayed with him in the locker room until his mom came to pick him up.
33. On Happy Writing Day, what was the assignment that Mr. Acevedo gave the class?
They had to write about what made them unique.
34. What did Rip figure out about Avery's name? What was Avery's reaction?
He figured out that it said: A-Very Good-Man (Avery Goodman). She did not want him to tell anyone else in the class. After he said that to her, she called him her friend.
35. What was different about Mr. Acevedo when he returned from the two day teacher workshop?
Mr. Acevedo said he had to postpone the presentations to do test preparations since they had to take the test. – Mr. Acevedo decided that he did not like that and went back to doing the presentations.
36. What was the title of the presentation that Avery and Rip did?
Tired (They wrote about the Nasty Nine things that had been stuck on Avery's tires at some point.)
37. What are two of the places Avery and Rip presented as the nastiest places to get things in the wheels?

The school cafeteria – food/milk	Winter – salt and sand
Movie theaters – Sticky soda/popcorn butter	School bathrooms – toilet paper/colors on the floor
Tar – summer days that melt the street	Poop – it is everywhere
The Dead – dead bugs, creatures, etc.	Gas Stations – oil/gasoline
The Worst: Glass – broken glass puts a hole in the tire or sticks in the tread and cuts your hand	
38. Who came to the second Millwood game?
Avery Goodman
39. How does the second Millwood game go?
The Clifton United actually lead the game at half time. The second half the Millwood team scored a lot of points. The fourth quarter the Clifton United went small to use speed and passing. They are competitive with the Millwood players.
40. What happened with Red at the second Millwood game?
Keith got an elbow to his head and had to leave the game. The Crazy Coach chose Red to shoot the free throws. Red made both shots and Clifton won.
41. What happened when the kids in Room 208 took the district assessment?
They all did well on the test.