



Teacher's Notes: Weed Killer

General Tips: The goal is to build background knowledge while leading an engaging discussion on any and all information that can be talked about on a given page. The items that you choose to bring up or focus on can be modified for the students you are working with. For example, if you have a student who can point to something in the picture, answer yes/no questions be sure to incorporate a lot more of that as you go through the book. On the same token, be sure to ask a lot of comprehension questions and critical thinking questions at the level appropriate for students working on those skills. There is something for everyone.

Addressing problem solving: Throughout the e-book, help students identify the problems that are involved and choice making opportunities throughout the article.

Page 1: Dewayne Johnson is a man that we are going to read about today. He worked at a school in California. **Point:** Your state, CA, school, windows, sky, tree **Questions:** Who is this story going to be about? Where did he work? What state did he work in? **Connect:** Who works at the school you go to? Do you know anyone named Dewayne?

Page 2: Dewayne was not a teacher at the school. He was a groundskeeper. That job is taking care of the school grounds. The ground outside. The grass, the sidewalks, flowers, playground, basketball court, football field, etc. It was Dewayne's job to take care of the school yard. Part of his job was to get rid of weeds. Weeds are what is growing in with the grass. People like to get rid of the weeds, so they put weed killer on them. The weed killer is something you buy. It is called Roundup. **Point:** roundup, Dewayne, school grounds **Questions:** What is a weed? What is Roundup? What was Dewayne's job? Where did he work? What did he take care of? What is a school yard? What are the school grounds? **Connect:** Have you ever been on the school grounds? What do you have to do to take care of the school grounds?

Page 3: Round up is made in a factory. The name of the company that makes it is called Monsanto. Monsanto makes Roundup to sell to people. Monsanto makes a lot of money selling Roundup. A lot of people buy Roundup to spray on weeds. **Point:** Roundup, Monsanto company, sign **Questions:** Who uses Roundup? What company makes Roundup? What is Roundup for? Do they make a lot of money selling it? **Connect:** What other companies do you know of?

Page 4: Monsanto is a big company. The people who own Monsanto make a lot of money. They lied about Roundup. They said Roundup was safe for people to use. It was not really safe. They lied about it. People thought it was safe. **Point:** bad guy, moustache, hat **Questions:** Why did Monsanto say Roundup was safe? Why do they want people to buy Roundup? What is a lie? (go over examples of lies) **Connection:** Have you ever told a lie?

Page 5: Roundup is not safe to use. Scientists have done experiments with Roundup. They say it makes people sick. Monsanto did not tell people it was dangerous to use. That is awful. Roundup is poisonous.

Point: Sign, poisonous symbol **Questions:** What does poisonous mean? **Connect:** What are some other things that are poisonous?

Page 6: Poor Dewayne Johnson. He is very sick. He got cancer because he used Roundup all the time. It was his job to use it to spray the grass. Now he is very, very sick. Dewayne did not know that Roundup was poisonous because Monsanto lied about it. **Point:** Dewayne, hand, IV, mask **Questions:** Why is Dewayne sick? What disease does he have? **Connect:** Do you know anyone who has had cancer?

Page 7: The doctors said that Dewayne got sick from Roundup. Lawyers want to sue Monsanto for lying about Roundup. They are going to help Dewayne go to court and sue. Sue means that Monsanto has to pay him if he wins. **Point:** Lawyer, suit, tie, computer **Questions:** What are lawyers going to do? Why do they want to sue Monsanto? What is 'sue'? **Connect:** What is court? Do you know any lawyers?

Page 8: On August 10th Dewayne Johnson and his lawyers went to court. The lawyers told the jury that Monsanto lied about Roundup. Monsanto said it was safe. It was not safe at all. The jury said that they agree with Dewayne. The judge said that Monsanto was wrong. **Point:** judge, lawyer, jury, courtroom, August, 10th **Questions:** What day of the week is August 10th? What day is today? **Connect:** Have you ever seen a courtroom on TV?

Page 9: Well, Monsanto got in BIG trouble. He has to pay a lot of money. Monsanto lied and that made Dewayne sick. The judge said Monsanto company has to pay \$289 million dollars. That is enough money to buy 10 houses! **Point:** money, judge, judge hammer **Questions :** Who won the case? What happened to Monsanto? What did Dewayne get? **Connect:** What would you buy if you won 289 million dollars?