Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ November 28, 2017

**Notebook Entries about Squeaky from “Raymond’s Run”**

I notice that when people say mean things about Raymond, Squeaky reacts by saying, “I much rather just knock you down …” I wonder why Bambara included this detail about Squeaky – that she wants to knock people down. Maybe the author wants to show us that Squeaky is really, really angry over how people treat her brother. On the other hand, perhaps Bambara is showing us that Squeaky really loves Raymond – she loves him so much that she’s willing to fight for him. Or, could it be that Bambara is trying to show that Squeaky thinks it works better to fight than to talk through stuff?

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I think Bambara wants to show that Squeaky is a good runner. I think maybe she also wants to show that Squeaky is really egotistical, like she is a rapper saying, “I’m the best!” But it is sad she is running a relay race all by herself. Maybe the author is trying to show that Squeaky doesn’t have any friends because she is running all by herself and winning all the spots. I bet maybe she doesn’t have friends because she is always attacking kids.

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Squeaky seems tough and angry, wanting to knock down people, but even though she seems tough, what shines through is how much she loves Raymond. He is disabled in some way; I am not sure how exactly. Having him tag along could make some people crazy, but she wants to stay near him to look out for him. They go everywhere together. If people tease her brother or treat him badly, Squeaky gets mad. She knows he is different and that he can't protect himself.

PROTECT.

That is a good word for what Squeaky does. Squeaky wants to protect her brother from the world. She watches that he walks on the safe side of the sidewalk, and she knocks anyone down who so much as looks at him. It is like she sees the whole world as enemies to her and to Raymond. Maybe she's gotten tough because people have made fun of her, and she uses that toughness to protect Raymond. But while she thinks she is just protecting Raymond, she is also pushing people away, and I sort of wonder if she is lonely deep down.

What are your ideas for claim statements about Squeaky?

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**Helpful Hints ...**

When you decide on a claim, generate an idea about the character that encompasses the whole character and the whole text.

This process is not just about choosing from a bunch of claims. You may need to revise and tweak the claim that seems closest to what you want to say, which means you may need to rewrite it over and over until it is just right.

You are aiming to write a claim that is not only true about the character, but also important and includes evidence from the whole novel.