



Name _____

Date _____

Things Not Seen by Andrew Clements



Here is a little background information about our First Chapter Friday title and its creator. Feel free to add your own notes and thoughts in the bottom box.

Read Aloud Video

What's It About?

Bobby Phillips is an average fifteen-year-old-boy. Until the morning he wakes up and can't see himself in the mirror. Not blind, not dreaming-Bobby is just plain invisible. There doesn't seem to be any rhyme or reason to Bobby's new condition; even his dad the physicist can't figure it out. For Bobby that means no school, no friends, no life. He's a missing person. Then he meets Alicia. She's blind, and Bobby can't resist talking to her, trusting her. But people are starting to wonder where Bobby is. Bobby knows that his invisibility could have dangerous consequences for his family and that time is running out. He has to find out how to be seen again-before it's too late.

Who Wrote It?

In 1990 I began trying to write a picture book about a boy who makes up a new word. That book eventually became my first novel, *Frindle*, published in 1996, and you can read the whole story of how it developed on the *Frindle* page of this website. *Frindle* became popular, more popular than any of my books before or since—at least so far. And it had the eventual effect of turning me into a full-time writer. I've learned that I need time and a quiet place to think and write. My wife and I now live in Maine. These days I spend a lot of my time in a room attached to the far side of the garage—just far enough from the rest of our home to make me feel like I've gone to work. The room is larger than the small garden shed I worked in for almost twenty years, but it's the same desk, same chair, same paper and pencils, same keyboard and screen. And I'm grateful to say that the books keep coming. Sometimes kids ask how I've been able to write so many books. The answer is simple: one word at a time. Which is a good lesson, I think. You don't have to do everything at once. You don't have to know how every story is going to end.



You just have to take that next step, look for that next idea, write that next word. And growing up, it's the same way. We just have to go to that next class, read that next chapter, help that next person. You simply have to do that next good thing, and before you know it, you're living a good life.

Photo and text taken from Andrew's website: www.andrewclements.com.

AR Reading Level: 4.5

Lexile Level: 690L

I want to read this book: YES / NO



WHAT I THINK





Use this graphic organizer with the First Chapter Friday videos on YouTube from the Word Nerd.