



Name _____

Date _____

Fighting Words

by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley



Read Aloud Video

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.

What's It About?

Ten-year-old Della has always had her older sister, Suki. When their mom went to prison, Della had Suki. When their mom's boyfriend took them in, Della had Suki. When that same boyfriend did something so awful they had to run fast, Della had Suki. Suki is Della's own wolf--her protector. But who has been protecting Suki? Della might get told off for swearing at school, but she has always known how to keep quiet where it counts. Then Suki tries to kill herself, and Della's world turns so far upside down, it feels like it's shaking her by the ankles. Maybe she's been quiet about the wrong things. Maybe it's time to be loud.

In this powerful novel that explodes the stigma around child sexual abuse and leavens an intense tale with compassion and humor, Kimberly Brubaker Bradley tells a story about two sisters, linked by love and trauma, who must find their own voices before they can find their way back to each other.

Who Wrote It?

I was born in Fort Wayne, Indiana, in 1967. I loved to read—I was the sort of kid who would skip recess to go talk with my school librarian—but I didn't know any writers, and I didn't think it was the sort of job I could have. I loved chemistry, too, and I majored in chemistry in college. I was lucky, though, to go to Smith, a liberal arts school where I was encouraged to learn everything that interested me, and I took lots of writing classes. I married my high-school sweetheart, and for awhile I worked as a research chemist and wrote stories late at night and on weekends. But I realized I really wanted to be a writer. My husband and I are still in Bristol, TN



where we live on a 52-acre farm. We love to travel and learn about history from all over the world. Learn more about Kimberly in the interview included at the end of this video!

AR Reading Level: 3.6

Lexile Level: currently unavailable

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.