

# Petey Crossword [Click for full size printable version of crossword.](#)

*Petey*  
Cross-word

Q. Trevor asked Petey to be his ? A. grandfather, but in Petey-speak the response would be "gggfaaa."

Across	Down
1 "I'm no good"	1 "I no die"
2 the nurse's daughter	2 money
3 "so sad"	3 Trevor's girlfriend
4 winter holiday	4 Petey's favorite nurse
5 Have fun!	5 Petey's first friend
6 Petey's last friend	6 gave Petey a toy pistol
7 Not eagles, but...	7 "Oh, boy"
8 Oh, go on...	8 horse
9 "I love you"	9 "pretty good"
10 "you visit"	10 Palisade Falls
11 Petey's photo album	11 expressing gratitude
	12 "hello"
	13 what Petey did at K-mart
	14 "baby"

Bonus: Why does Petey's word for yes ("aeee") use the long "e" sound (e.g. bee), instead of a softer "s" sound (e.g. bus)?

## Summary

Moving to a new town is no fun for Trevor Ladd, and it only gets worse when he protects a nursing home patient from the neighborhood bullies. Walking home from school, he catches the bullies throwing snowballs at a withered old man named Petey. As he chases them off, he can't imagine that his life is about to change. Petey has spent his life in institutions. Born with cerebral palsy, he was misdiagnosed as an infant and grew up in mental institutions. As an adult, he is bound by his wheelchair and struggles to communicate with the people around him. But Petey sees something in Trevor and is determined to become his friend - and Trevor soon learns that there is more to Petey than meets the eye.

280 pages, 5th grade and up

## Discussion Questions

Spoiler alert! Some of the questions contain key elements of the plot. Do not read if you don't want to know what happens!

1. How do you feel about Petey's parents leaving him in the institution? Do you blame them or understand what they did?
2. What do you think happened to Esteban? How would Petey's life have been different if Esteban would have stayed?
3. Why did it take so many years for Petey to learn how to make sounds?
4. What do you think it would feel like to have thoughts, feelings, and ideas inside you and not be able to communicate them with anyone? Is that what Petey is feeling?
5. What motivated Trevor to step in when the boys were throwing snowballs at Petey? Would you be that brave?
6. What are some similarities between Trevor and Petey? How have they both learned to cope with their situations?

7. Why is it so important to Trevor to get Petey a new wheelchair?
8. How realistic did Trevor's search for Calvin seem to you?
9. Petey's nurse Sissy says, "We're all dying from the second we're born. That's why it is so important to live." What does that mean to you?
10. Do you know anyone with cerebral palsy? Did reading this novel affect how you might respond to someone with this disease?

**Activities**

Visit Ben Mikaelson's website and learn about the real-life man who inspired the story of Petey.

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