Possible Sources of Confusion (organized by double-page spread) | Fix-Up Options
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Review the book covers and read the first paragraph on the book jacket. | Study the illustration.
Ask a new question: Whose red hat is on the grass?  
Ask a new question: How will these people meet?

First Voice  
Who is talking?  
Is there an unfamiliar word on this page? | Stop to think: The woman in the red hat is talking. She is the first voice. She is the boy’s mother.  
Ask someone for help: What does “pedigree” mean?

Is there an unfamiliar word on this page?  
Is there more information in the illustration? | Ask someone for help: What does “mongrel” mean?  
Reread: Compare “pedigree” with “mongrel.”  
Study the illustration: The dogs are playing. There is someone else on the bench.  
Read ahead.

The woman in the red hat is afraid. | Study the illustration: Look at the woman’s face and read her words. She is afraid of the man on the bench and afraid that Charles is lost.

They are walking home in silence. | Ask new questions: Why does the tree look like it’s on fire? What does the trail of leaves mean?  
Stop to think: Charles and Victoria are not happy to leave the park.

Second Voice  
Who is talking? | Stop to think: The man needed to get out of the house. He is the second voice.  
Stop to think and ask new questions: Who is Smudge? Is the man Smudge’s father?  
Study the illustration: There is a beggar dressed as Santa Claus.

Not everything is “normal” at this park. | Ask a new question: Who is flying with an umbrella?

The man hopes to find a job. | Study the illustration: When Smudge cheers up the man, his whole world looks different. Compare with the first illustration in the Second Voice.
**Third Voice**

Who is talking?  

| Study the illustration: Notice the mother’s shadow on the boy and the tree shaped like the mother’s hat.  
| Ask a new question: What is the illustrator saying in this image?  
| Read ahead. |

These kids are meeting in the park.  

| Study the illustration and ask a new question: Why are the two sides of the illustration different?  
| Prediction: Charles will like Smudge, even though he thinks it’s unfortunate that she’s a girl. |

The kids and the dogs are having a good time. Something is odd about this park.  

| Study the illustration and ask new questions: Is the statue the flying figure with the umbrella from a previous page? |

Charles’s mother didn’t like him talking to Smudge.  

| Visualize: Imagine you’ve had a great day at the park playing with a new friend and then you have to go home. How do you feel?  
| Ask a new question: Is there a connection between the print and the statue shooting the arrow?  
| Prediction: Charles and Smudge will get to play together again. |

**Fourth Voice**

Who is talking?  

| Question answered: The man is Smudge’s dad.  
| Ask someone for help: What is a “silly twit”? |

The kids don’t especially like each other at first.  

| Reread: Charles was sorry Smudge was a girl. Smudge thought Charles was a wimp. |

The kids and dogs had a good time.  

| Read ahead. |

Charlie picked a flower for Smudge.  

| Study the illustration and ask new questions: Why did the illustrator paint a bright glow around Charlie and Smudge? Why are the tops of the gate columns shaped like the mother’s hat? |

Smudge put the flower in a cup.  

| Study the illustration: Notice the dogs on the cup. |

Visualization and prediction: What will happen the next time Charlie, Victoria, Smudge, and Albert are at the park? Use all your senses to visualize it.