

HOORAY FOR READING DAY!

K-3

Written by Margery Cuyler
Illustrated by Arthur Howard

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Story Summary

Jessica is a girl who worries about many things. The thing she worries about most of all is the difficulty she is having learning to read. Mr. Martin, Jessica's first grade teacher, urges her to keep trying. But Jessica hates it when she makes mistakes that the other kids hear. When you read this book, you will see how Jessica gets help from all of the members of her household, including one named Wiggles! You will see how Jessica achieves success on Reading Day in school. This book carries a powerful message for any child who has had difficulties in school and for the children who want to learn to understand them.

Objectives

1. To encourage empathy for others with weaknesses.
2. To encourage discussion about the struggles and challenges we have all experienced.
3. To develop strategies for dealing with school difficulties.
4. To encourage creative writing skills.

Before viewing the video

Tell the children that when they view this video, they will have a chance to meet the author, Margery Cuyler. Ask the children if any of them have had difficulties with any subject in school. Ask them how they got the help they needed. Tell the class that in this book they will meet a first grader named Jessica who has a problem learning to read. They will see how Jessica becomes a better reader.

Questions to ask after viewing the video

1. Jessica worried all of the time about many things. In this video, what was Jessica most worried about?
2. How did Mr. Martin try to help Jessica when she had trouble reading?
3. Why was Jessica so sad when Mr. Martin announced: "Friday is Reading Theater day?"
4. What did Jessica learn about her mom when she was in first grade?
5. How did Wiggles the dog help Jessica get ready for Reading Theater day?
6. Why do you think Jessica put the blanket over her head on Reading Theater day?
7. Why did Jessica throw off her blanket after Bobby read?
8. When it was Jessica's turn to read, what did she do to help herself read with success?
9. What did Jessica do after she got home from Reading Day that helped her to become a better reader?

Activities

1. Develop creative writing skills by writing a rhyming book for the kindergarten classes. Have the children work in small group settings. Give each group a different rhyming family and ask them to create sentences that can be illustrated.
2. Develop a list of different kinds of difficulties the children have experienced in school. Ask them to participate in a discussion to develop strategies for overcoming these difficulties. The teacher may wish to create a bulletin board listing all of these suggestions, i.e., "when I have difficulty with math, this is what I do."
3. To help foster an understanding of the challenges others may be experiencing, have a classroom activity called "Imagine how it would be if." Have the children express how they would feel if they did not perform well in various areas such as sports, academics, reading out loud, playing games with friends, etc. Elicit how they would like to be treated under those circumstances.