

Chrysanthemum



Run Time: 14:24

Author: Kevin Henkes

Illustrator: Kevin Henkes

Narrator: Meryl Streep

Ages: 4-8

Guided Reading Level: L
AD570L / ATOS RL 3.8

Genre
Fiction

Text Structure
problem/solution

Third person narrative with some dialogue.

Content
This story illustrates how teasing affects someone and how important support from others can be.

Themes and Ideas

Teasing, self-esteem, bullying

Language and Literary Features

Names of the characters are names of flowers

Sentence Complexity

Simple, compound, and complex sentences. Some sentences go across pages.

Vocabulary

Winsome, scarcely, carnation, chrysanthemum, parcheesi, wilted, indescribable

Illustrations

The characters are mice given human characteristics.

Book and Print Features

Epilogue contains important information that brings the story to a close.

Summary

Chrysanthemum is the story of a mouse who loves her name. She loves the way it sounds and she loves the way it looks. She thinks her name is perfect until she goes to school. At school her classmates make fun of her name because it is so long. Chrysanthemum has to learn how to ignore the bullies and love her name again.

Activity Ideas

- Ask the children to share the most important event from the beginning of the story. Ask the children to share the most important event from the middle of the story. Ask the children to share the most important event from the end of the story.
- As a class, create a chart of the words ending in "ly" in the story. Post the chart in the Writing Center.
- Send home the Parent Connection and ask parents to help their child answer the questions. Ask children to share their conversations.
- Ask the children to draw a picture of the most important lesson they learned from Chrysanthemum.
- Ask the children to make as many words as they can from the letters in Chrysanthemum. Ask the children to make as many words as they can from the letters in their own names.
- As a class, create a list of unique names. Post the chart in the Writing Center.
- Ask the children to complete an "ly" chart finding words that end in "ly", telling where they found the word, and using the word in a sentence. Share. Perhaps create a class chart.
- Bring in pictures of the flowers mentioned in the story: chrysanthemum, daisy, Lily of the Valley, delphinium, and marigold. Ask children to draw a picture of their favorite flower.

Discussion Questions

- What does Chrysanthemum love about her name?
- What makes Chrysanthemum change her mind about her name?
- What does Chrysanthemum think about her name after she goes to school?
- What do Chrysanthemum's mother and father say about her name?
- What do the children at school say about Chrysanthemum's name?
- What does Mrs. Twinkle say about Chrysanthemum's name?
- How do Chrysanthemum's mother and father try to make her feel better when she comes home from school?
- What was Chrysanthemum's dream?
- What was Chrysanthemum's nightmare?
- Why do you think the author included the epilogue?

Parent Connection

Today our class read Chrysanthemum on Vooks. A little mouse thinks her name is absolutely perfect - that is, until she starts school and all the kids make fun of her. A true classic, Chrysanthemum is a beautiful story that addresses some hard topics, such as teasing, self-esteem, and acceptance.

Talking points

Please help your child answer the following questions. Name: _____

Have you ever made fun of someone? What did you say or do? (This provides an opportunity to have a conversation with your child about a very sensitive topic.)

Describe a bully. What does a bully do? What kinds of things does a bully say? (This provides an opportunity to have a conversation with your child about a very sensitive topic.)

Tell me about a time you had trouble at school. What did you do?

Tell me about a time you had a bad day. Who cheered you up? How did they cheer you up?

Retell the story of Chrysanthemum.

What lesson did you learn from Chrysanthemum?

Draw a picture of the most important lesson you learned from Chrysanthemum.

The most important lesson I learned from Chrysanthemum was _____

Draw a picture of your favorite flower.

My favorite flower is _____.

How many words can you make from the letters in Chrysanthemum?

1.	9.
2.	10.
3.	11.
4.	12.
5.	13.
6.	14.
7.	15.
8.	16.

How many words can you make from the letters in your name? My name is _____.

1.	9.
2.	10.
3.	11.
4.	12.
5.	13.
6.	14.
7.	15.
8.	16.

Complete the chart with -ly words you find in Chrysanthemum.

-ly word	Write a sentence using the word