

The Girl and the Bicycle Lesson Plan

Grades: K-2

Time: 30 minutes

Materials:

The Girl and the Bicycle by Mark Pett

The Boy and the Airplane by Mark Pett

Several colorful thank you notes

Copies of the thank you card or thank you picture for each student

Lesson:

1. Introduce the book by explaining that we are reading a book today that's a little different because it doesn't have any words. It just has pictures. So, students will have to keep their eyes on the book to know what's happening.
2. "Read" the book by narrating what is happening in the pictures.
3. When the little girl goes to count her money, always ask, "did she have enough for the bicycle?"
4. Kids love it when you point out some details in the illustrations: that the girl makes her brother drop his ice cream cone the first time she sees the bike, that the boy is playing with a bug when they discover the bike was gone, that she drops her bike and runs back to hug the lady after she gives it to her. Point out that the seasons change as she does all the work for her neighbor—it takes her a long time to earn enough money for the bicycle. Point out that she is walking her neighbor's dog past the toy shop with the bicycle.
5. If you're using The Boy and the Airplane, then point out on the page where she is helping clean out the garage that they need to pay attention to the photograph of the old man and the airplane.
6. When you get to the part in the story where she discovers that the bicycle has been purchased, ask
 - a. Look at her face. How does she feel? (help students to learn the word *disappointed* if they don't know it) Ask, "have you ever been disappointed?" Give some examples of times when you have felt disappointed.
 - b. Ask, where do you think his sister is going?
 - c. Would you have bought a tricycle for your brother or sister? I don't know that I would have done that. I would have saved my money for something else or I would have bought something else with that money that I had to work all year to earn. That's an amazing act of kindness, isn't it?
 - d. How does she feel after giving her brother the tricycle? (she's still disappointed)

7. When they pass the lady's house and she gives her the bicycle, ask "Wow. Wasn't *that* an act of kindness?" Ask, "why do you think the lady buys her the bicycle?"
8. When you get to the last page, I always hide the book and tell my students it's my favorite page in the book. Then I show them and explain that we often forget to tell people thank you who have shown kindness to us. It's an important act of kindness in itself that we tell others thank you for being kind to me.
9. If you want to, you can share the story of The Boy and the Airplane very quickly—it's a less complicated story line. And then talk about how the two books together show a chain reaction of kindness that happens.
10. Brainstorm together the names of teachers and staff in your building who have shown kindness to them. I always whisper the name of their teacher, who is usually sitting in the back of the room. Then we think of other people (music, PE, principal, secretary, nurse, cafeteria, custodians, etc.).
11. In Kindergarten, we draw pictures for someone who works at our school. I go around and help students write the names of staff members on their papers.
12. In 1st and 2nd grade, students write thank you notes to staff members in the building.
13. In all grade levels, I tell them that I will be the postman and deliver these little acts of kindness to their mailboxes so that they can find a happy surprise in there. The kids love to be a part of something secret/a surprise for their teachers.