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For the Teacher

This reproducible *Little Novel-Ties* study guide consists of activities to use in conjunction with the book *A Chair For My Mother*. The picture book and its corresponding guide can become an important element in your whole language reading program. The guide contains a synopsis; background information on the author and illustrator; suggested pre-reading activities; exercises that focus on vocabulary; visual literacy, story comprehension, and critical thinking skills; and extension activities that link the story to other curriculum areas.

Suggestions For Using Activities

Pre-Reading Activities – Before You Read

These activities are designed to activate children’s prior knowledge and build concepts or background information. They will motivate children to read and help them to understand the story better. Children can discuss answers to the questions with a partner, in a small cooperative learning group or with the entire class.

Word Study – Words That Go Together

This page offers children the opportunity to identify words that belong in the same category; for example, words that name foods, vehicles, furniture and so on. Children are then asked to describe how the words are alike.

Understanding the Story – Story Questions, Picture Questions

The story questions include a number of literal, inferential and evaluative questions that help children focus on major story elements. The picture questions help children draw inferences from the illustrations.
BEFORE YOU READ

1. Read the title of the book. Then look at the picture on the cover. Can you guess who the mother is? Can you find the girl who is telling this story?

2. This book won a prize for its art. Look at a few of the pictures. What words would you use to tell about the pictures?

3. The girl tells about a fire in her house. What things would you hate to lose in a fire? Make a list. Share it with a partner.

4. The family saves money to buy something special. Draw something that you think is worth saving money to buy.
STORY QUESTIONS

1. Where does the girl’s mother work? What does she do with the tips she earns at work?

2. How do the girl and Grandma get money to put in the jar?

3. What does the family plan to do when the jar is full of coins?

4. What surprise did the girl and her mother have when they returned from buying shoes? What was their biggest worry when they saw what had happened?

5. Would you agree with Grandma that the neighbors are very kind people? Explain your answer.

6. Why do Mama and Grandma want a comfortable chair?

7. What does the family do after the jar is finally full of coins?

8. How can you tell that the family is careful about making a decision?

9. How do Grandma, Mama and the girl each use the chair? How do you think they feel about it?

10. Do you think people like something more because they have saved money to buy it? Can you give an example you know about?