A Kitten in Daisy Street

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Range: Historical story
Theme: Victorian childhood
Teaching Notes authors: Thelma Page and Gill Howell

Synopsis

When the roundabout comes to the street it is going to cost a lot of money for all five children in Hetty’s family to have a ride. Hetty is given some money, but then has to decide whether to spend it on the roundabout, or on buying milk for a kitten.

Group or guided reading

Introducing the book

- Ask the children to read the title and look at the picture. Ask: Do you think this is a modern story? What kind of story do you think it might be?
- Read the blurb on the back. What do you think the choice might be?
- Look through the book to see some of the pictures. When do you think this story might be set? How can you tell?

Strategy check

- On page 5 find ‘pleaded’ in the last sentence. What does ‘pleaded’ mean?
- Which word does the beginning ‘plea…’ remind you of? Which two meanings can ‘please’ have?
- Help the children to look in a dictionary to find words that begin with ‘plea…’. Are the meanings linked?
- On page 21, ask the children to find two adverbs in the last two sentences (‘kindly’, ‘sadly’).
- Ask the children to explain how ‘kindly’ affects the way we read this sentence. Suppose it had been ‘roughly’. How would you have read the sentence then?
- Ask the children to explain why ‘sadly’ is important in the next sentence.

Independent reading

Focus: Explain that you want the children to think about this question while reading: What was Hetty’s dilemma?

- As children read part of the story aloud to you, praise them for reading with expression.
- Ask questions to make sure that children have understood the historical context, e.g. Why did the children have to collect water? Why was five pence a lot of money?

Returning and responding to the text

- Ask the children to tell you about Hetty’s dilemma. What were her choices?
- Why did she want to go on the roundabout? Why did she need money for the kitten? How would you have chosen to spend the money?
- Ask the children to explain why Hetty had so little money.
- Ask the children to say when the story was set. *What clues did you notice?* Find the pictures that give clues to the setting.
- *Which King or Queen was on the throne? How can you tell?* (see page 30)

**Speaking and listening activities**
- Ask the children to say what it was like for Hetty’s mother. *What were her problems? What do you think she could have done with the extra five pence that Hetty had been given?*
- *Do you think Hetty did the right thing with the money? Did she have to share it?*
- Choose two children to create roles as Mother and Hetty, and encourage the other children to ask them questions about the money.
- Ask other volunteers to be Hetty and Mother and to give their points of view.

**Further reading activities**
- Ask the children to use this story to write a paragraph about what life was like in Victorian times. *How did they get milk and water? How did boys and girls dress? How did they do their washing?*
- Suggest that the children find out more about living in Victorian times. Use the school or class library to find useful books.

**Suggestions for using ICT**
- The children can find out about the Victorians using the Internet (ensure they have access to child-friendly sites only).

**Writing activities**
- Explain that you want the children to plan and write a story about a dilemma. Remind them that a dilemma is a choice between two possibilities. The dilemma needs to be important to the character.
- Brainstorm some possible dilemmas and make a list, e.g.:
  - Money: how to spend it;
  - Promise: do you have to keep it?
  - Finding out something: should you tell?
  - Friends: should you do what they want you to?
- The children will need to create a main character. Share their results.
Applying current trends but always with a twist, Daisy Street is all about individual expression. Join in on the graphic and slogan T-shirt and sweatshirt line-up, with their bright pops of colour and urban edge giving you plenty to work with. Skirts come short and casual, perfect for teaming with your go-to T-shirt and denim jacket—just finish it with your most worn-in trainers. And what’s not to love about a playful jumpsuit? These come in the form of cropped and wide-leg, relaxed fit trousers and tops that layer up with anything from the rest of the collection. Contemporary, trend-led and From 239 RUB. This book is part of TreeTops Fiction, a structured reading programme providing juniors with stories they will love to read. Offering chapter books with full-colour illustrations, written by well-known authors, these stories are full of humour and have real boy appeal. They are tightly levelled allowing children to read books appropriate to their ability. This book is also available as part of a mixed pack of 6 different books or a class pack of 36 books of the same Oxford Reading Tree stage. Each book pack comes with a free copy of up-to-date and invaluable teaching notes. This is our little kitten Daisy, which came home with us last night (we were only going to the pet store "for a look"). Six weeks old and about the size of my hand. For a change of pace, here is a (very happy-looking) Tokyo dog. Date: May 6, 2012 Camera: Sony SLT-A77V Exposure: 1/250 sec at f/1.8, ISO 2000 Lens: 135mm F1.8 ZA at 135 mm © 2012 Benjamin Torode.钗v This is our little kitten Daisy, which came home with us last night (we were only going to the pet store “for a look”). Six weeks old and about the size of my hand. For a change of pace, here is a (very happy-looking) Tokyo dog. Date: May 6, 2012. Camera: Sony SLT-A77V. Exposure: 1/250 sec at f/1.8, ISO 2000. Lens: 135mm F1.8 ZA at 135 mm.