

Nanette's Baguette

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by Mo Willems

Ages: 4-8, Grades PreK-3

Themes: Humor, Self-Esteem

SUMMARY

From acclaimed author and illustrator Mo Willems comes another insightful and humorous story about young Nanette and her quest to purchase a baguette. Nanette is thrilled with the new responsibility that her mother bestows upon her and cheerfully sets off to secure the baguette. But distractions lurk around every corner, with the most tempting being the warm and wonderful-smelling baguette itself! Students will connect to Nanette's excitement for her first big responsibility as well as the dilemmas she encounters along the way.

BEFORE VIEWING ACTIVITIES

Discuss responsibility with students. Guiding questions:

- What are some responsibilities that you have? At home? At school?
- Have you ever not fulfilled your responsibilities? What stopped you? What happened as a result?
- How do you feel when you get a new responsibility?

Tell students that they're going to watch a movie about a girl named Nanette who gets a new responsibility to go to the store to buy a baguette for her mother. Encourage students to watch and listen for the distractions that Nanette runs into along the way.

Introduce or review rhyming with students. Start with simple rhymes, such as words ending in -at or -op. Then, introduce the main rhyming pattern from the movie: -et or -ette. Challenge students to brainstorm words that fit that rhyming pattern (pet, net, set, etc). Then, encourage students to watch and listen for words that they identified in the movie. Did they hear any new words?

AFTER VIEWING ACTIVITIES

Say to students: Do you have a special responsibility in your life? What is it? If not, what is a responsibility that you wish you had? We're going to write a story about a time when we had a problem with our responsibility. Just like Mo Willems did, we're going to focus on one small moment and write about that. For example, we're not going to write about every time we do our responsibility, or many problems that we have, but we're going to write about one time when we were trying to be responsible but something got in our way. Think about a time you had a problem fulfilling one of your responsibilities and write a story about that time.

Guide students through the writing process, by modeling a story about having trouble with a responsibility.

- 1) Use a web or list to brainstorm ideas.
- 2) Use the web or list to choose the strongest idea. Using that idea, create an outline with the students. Since it is a story, the outline should be created in chronological order, using the key words first, then, next, finally. Encourage all students to contribute ideas to the outline.
- 3) Use the outline to fill in details and strong vocabulary, creating a story. Scribe the story on large chart paper, so that students can see how the ideas get transformed into complete sentences.

4) Conclude by having students tell the stories of a time that they had a problem with a responsibility. Older students can use the writing process to create their story, while younger students can make a wordless picture book.

Discuss problem and solution with students. Guiding questions:

- What is Nanette's problem in this story? How does she solve it?
- How does Nanette feel before she tells her mother about the baguette? What in the story makes you think that?
- What does Nanette's mother do after Nanette tells her that she ate the baguette? What does that tell you about Nanette's mother?
- How do Nanette's feelings change in the text? What causes them to change?
- What is the author's message in this story? What parts of the text are connected to this message?

Mo Willems used recycled materials such as toilet paper rolls and food containers to construct a model town for the artwork in the text. Collect recycled building materials as a class and set up an "Architect's Center" where children can design and build structures to create a town. Make puppets or play figures of Nanette, her mother, Baker Juliette, and others for children to use for dramatic play in the town.

OTHER TITLES FROM MO WILLEMS:

Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus!
Don't Let the Pigeon Stay Up Late!
The Duckling Gets A Cookie!?
Edwina: The Dinosaur Who Didn't Know She Was Extinct
Goldilocks and the Three Dinosaurs
Hooray for Amanda and Her Alligator
Knuffle Bunny Trilog
Leonardo, the Terrible Monster
Naked Mole Rat Gets Dressed
The Pigeon Finds a Hot Dog!
That is Not a Good Idea!

COMMON CORE CONNECTIONS:

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.R.1

Read closely to determine what the text says explicitly and to make logical inferences from it; cite specific textual evidence when writing or speaking to support conclusions drawn from the text.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.R.3

Analyze how and why individuals, events, or ideas develop and interact over the course of a text

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.W.3

Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, well-chosen details and well-structured event sequences.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.SL.1

Prepare for and participate effectively in a range of conversations and collaborations with diverse partners, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly and persuasively.

OBJECTIVES

- Students will discuss responsibility.
- Students will identify Nanette's problem and how the problem was solved.
- Students will write a story about a responsibility that they have.
- Students will participate in a text dependent discussion.

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