

If You Come to Earth

If You Come to Earth

Book by Sophie Blackall

Ages: 5-8; Grades: K-3

Themes: Environment, Imagination, Fantasy & Magic

SUMMARY

In some ways, everyone is different. But in other ways, we are all the same.

In *If You Come to Earth*, Sophie Blackall explores this concept with an environmental twist. Throughout the story, a young child tells a “Visitor from Outer Space” just what they could expect from life on planet Earth. As the child conveys both the sadness and magic of human life, their optimism never fails. Because no matter who you are, we are all partners in humanity, sharing responsibility for both each other and our planet.

COMMON CORE CONNECTIONS

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RE.3.4

Read with sufficient accuracy and fluency to support comprehension.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RE.3.4.C

Use context to confirm or self-correct word recognition and understanding, rereading as necessary.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.3.2

Recount stories, including fables, folktales, and myths from diverse cultures; determine the central message, lesson, or moral and explain how it is conveyed through key details in the text.

OBJECTIVES

- Students will partner-read *If You Come to Earth* with sufficient accuracy, fluency, and prosody.
- Students will identify unknown words and use context to guess their meaning.
- Students will determine the central message of *If You Come to Earth*.

MATERIALS

- Easel/whiteboard and markers
- A.V. equipment
- *If You Come to Earth* movie
- *If You Come to Earth* book copies
- Sticky notes
- Pencils
- Large index cards
- Colored pencils or markers (optional)

BEFORE VIEWING ACTIVITIES

Discuss the themes of compassion, acceptance, and environmentalism. Guiding questions may include:

- How might people living in different places be different from one another?
- How might people living in different places be similar?
- What are some things that all people have in common?
- We all share the same planet, regardless of who we are or where we’re from. How might the ways that you treat the planet impact somebody else?
- Why do you think it’s important to take care of our planet?

After the discussion, tell the students that they will be watching a movie that explores the topics of compassion, acceptance, and the importance of caring for our planet.

AFTER VIEWING ACTIVITIES

Reconvene the class to discuss the movie and check for comprehension. Guiding questions may include:

- How would you describe the movie to a classmate, friend, or family member who didn’t see it?
- How did the movie make you feel about yourself?
- If you could “take away” one big message from the movie, what would it be? In other words, what do you think the author is trying to tell you?

After discussing the movie, explain that the students will be partner-reading the book version of *If You Come to Earth*. In each pair, the reader should alternate by page. As the students read, they will put a sticky note over any words that they are unfamiliar with. Using both context clues and the illustrations, students will write what they think the unknown word means on the sticky note. Model this process with an example.

After completing this group activity, each student will write what they think the “big message” of the story is on an index card. They’re welcome to illustrate their index cards, too!

As the students read and work, circulate the room. Observe the students’ fluency, accuracy, and prosody as they read.

OTHER TITLES ABOUT NATURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT:

And Then Its Spring by Julie Fogliano, ill. by Erin E. Stead

In A Small Small Pond by Denise Fleming

Johnny Appleseed by Reeve Lindbergh, ill. by Kathy Jakobsen

Planting a Rainbow by Lois Ehlert

The Tiny Seed by Eric Carle

The Water Princess by Susan Verde and Georgie Badiel,

ill. by Peter H. Reynolds

We Are Water Protectors by Carole Lindstrom,

ill. by Michaela Goade

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