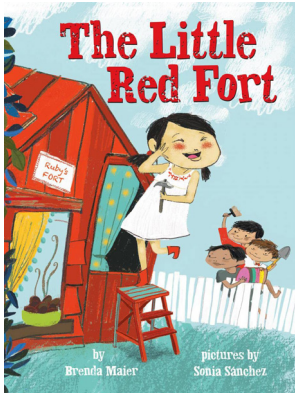




Curriculum Guide

The Little Red Fort

Written by Brenda Maier. Illustrated by Sonia Sánchez.



SUMMARY

Ruby has an active imagination and is eager to bring her ideas to life. One day, the opportunity to create something awesome presents itself. Ruby finds some old boards that are just waiting to be turned into a magnificent creation. She asks her brothers for their help, but they have little faith in Ruby. And that's their mistake. Based on the classic tale *The Little Red Hen*, *The Little Red Fort* will inspire thinkers, creators, and dreamers to keep striding toward their goals.

THEMES

Siblings, Self-Esteem, Working Together



COMMON CORE CONNECTIONS*

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.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.3.7

Explain how specific aspects of a text's illustrations contribute to what is conveyed by the words in a story (e.g., create mood, emphasize aspects of a character or setting)

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.3.1.A

Introduce the topic or text they are writing about, state an opinion, and create an organizational structure that lists reasons.

MATERIALS

- Easel/whiteboard and markers
- A.V. equipment
- *The Little Red Fort* movie
- *The Little Red Fort* book
- Pencils
- Blank Cards
- Crayons, colored pencils, and/or markers

*The Common Core State Standards addressed by the discussion questions and activities in this guide are noted throughout. For more information on the Common Core, visit corestandards.org.



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Activities



OBJECTIVES

- Students will participate in a collaborative discussion about the central message of the story.
- Students will write a persuasive letter from Ruby's point of view. In the letter, they will attempt to convince Ruby's brothers to help her build the fort.

BEFORE VIEWING ACTIVITIES

Convene the class and discuss the concept of determination. Guiding questions may include:

- Think about the last time you took on a new challenge. What was the challenge and why was it difficult?
- How did you feel after overcoming this challenge?
- Think about why you decided to challenge yourself. What inspires people to challenge themselves?

Introduce *The Little Red Fort* using the summary (above).

AFTER VIEWING ACTIVITIES

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

- What was the central message of this story? In other words, what life lesson is this story teaching us?
- Explain how the characters in the story helped us learn this lesson.
- What do you think was the biggest challenge that Ruby faced? Why?
- How did the experience of watching the story compare to the experience of reading a story?
- What details about the story did you learn just by watching? In other words, how did the pictures help you understand the story?

(CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.3.2, CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.3.7)

Now, introduce the "Upper Elementary Persuasive Paragraph Option 1" (from "*The Little Red Fort Study Guide*"). This prompt asks students to consider how Ruby could convince her brothers to help her build her fort. Students will write their responses as a paragraph from Ruby's perspective.

In order to begin this activity, use the prompts on page 3 of the Study Guide as a basis for group discussion. Be sure to touch upon the following points:

- Consider Ruby's brother's points of view of older siblings. How might this affect their willingness to help her?
- How might Ruby appeal to her brothers and convince them that they should help? What are some strategies she could use?
- Imagine you're Ruby and I'm one of your brothers. Tell me what you would say to convince me that I should help.

(CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.3.1.A)

As the discussion commences, write the students' ideas on the easel or whiteboard.

Finally, distribute blank greeting cards and pencils to the students. Students will create their paragraphs on the greeting cards. In order to successfully complete the assignment, students will have to include 2-3 of the ideas from the class discussion in their writing.

OTHER SIMILAR TITLES

- The Little Red Hen
- The Red Hen
- Roberto the Insect Architect