***Gold*** by Jed Alexander

9781954354111

Guided Reading Level WB, Pre-K-3rd

CCSS/Instructional Strands: W.K.3,8; SL.K.1, 1b, 2, 3, 4, 6: L.K.1, 1b, 1d, 1e, 1f, 6;RL.K.1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 10.

Wordless picture book featuring basic story elements: setting, plot, character development. What is the beginning of the book? Who is the main character? What happens in the middle? How does the book end? What kind of assumptions/predictions can you make at the beginning of the book? Does what you predict happen? Does the ending surprise you?

Bold illustrations create meaning and tone. How does the art help you understand the characters and who they are? How are the bears shown at the beginning, in the middle, at the end? Are the bears ever scary? Why or why not? How is the girl shown? Is she scary? Why or why not? Give examples of how the pictures reveal personalities to you.

How does the art show feelings and moods? How can you tell what the girl is thinking, feeling? How can you tell what the bears are thinking, feeling?

Comprehension strategies: Activities:

List the sequence of events.

Tell story out loud to yourself as you turn the pages.

Add your own text to the pictures, add your own dialog.

What are different possible endings? Could the bears be angry at the girl? Could the girl be angry at the bears? Why or why not?

Discussion topics:

Predictions/assumptions

What do you assume about the bears when you first see them? Do they seem friendly, scary, timid, brave?

What do you assume about the girl when you first see her? Does she seem friendly, scary, timid, brave?

When you see the bear picking up the clothes left on the floor, read the facial expressions, body language for clues:

If the bear seems angry, what does that mean? That the bear is tired of picking up messes? That the bear sees the mess as a sign that something has happened?

If the bear seems happy, what does that mean? That the bear is excited someone is there? That the bear needs new clothes? That the bear likes picking up things?

If the bear seems sad, what does that mean? That the bear is tired of cleaning? That the bear is worried there will be even bigger messes to clean up?

If the bear seems scared, what does that mean? That the bear is afraid of whoever left the clothes? That the bear fears what else will be left on the ground?

When you see the shadow looming over the girl on sofa, what do you think will happen?

Is the shadow scary?

Is the shadow welcoming?

Is the shadow surprising?

How does ending surprise you? What did you expect to happen?

Draw your own ending, different from the one in the book.

Draw your own beginning – for example, what if baby bear got off bus with girl? What if the girl rode bikes with the bears? How would that change the story?

Themes: Family, Assumptions

How do the pictures build up to make you assume certain things about the bears, about the girl?

What do the bears do to make them seem like a family?

What does the girl do to make her seem like part of the family?

What do you think most families look like? Draw a picture of a family.

Are there other ways families can be? Draw different kinds of families, for example a family with three kids who look exactly alike, a family with kids who all look different, a family with one parent, a family with grandparents.