

Olive by Jed Alexander
9781954354258

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.

Description: Who is the real giant in this wordless retelling of Jack and the Beanstalk?

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 is the girl, Olive, shown at the beginning, in the middle, at the end? Is the giant 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 giant is thinking, feeling? How can you tell what the mouse is thinking, feeling?

Partway through the book, the page orientation changes and you need to flip the book around. How does this change help tell the story? Why do the pages need to change from horizontal to vertical to horizontal again?

How does size change how you see something? If you see a big dog do you feel differently than if you see a tiny dog? When do you feel big? When do you feel small?

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 girl be scared of the giant? Could the mouse be scared of the girl?

Draw different characters as both big and small, for example a giant mouse next to a tiny bug, then a tiny mouse next to a giant elephant.

Draw a big dog and a tiny dog. Do they have different personalities since one is big and one is tiny?

Discussion topics:

Predictions/assumptions

What do you assume about the beanstalk when you first see it? Do you think the girl should climb it? Why or why not?

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

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

Explain why you make the assumptions that you do based on what the pictures tell you. Read the facial expressions, body language for clues.

How does it feel being big?

How does it feel being small?

Talk about a time when you felt TOO big? Maybe trying to fit into a small space, maybe when you wanted to be carried but were too heavy.

Talk about a time when you felt TOO small? Maybe when you couldn't go on a carnival ride since you weren't tall enough.

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

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

Themes: Size Assumptions

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

What difference does size make to the characters? Who is the biggest? Who is the smallest? Can animals that are different sizes be friends?

About the author:

Jed Alexander's work has appeared in publications like *Cricket* magazine and *SpongeBob* comics. His previous book with Creston, *Gold*, received starred reviews and a rave from the *New York Times*. He lives in northern California.