

PACE

Sample Lesson Plan

The Wednesday Surprise

by Eve Bunting

PERSEVERANCE



DEFINITION: Work: (noun) the act or quality of holding to a course, belief, purpose, etc., without giving way; steadfastness; to persist, in spite of opposition or discouragement

Verb: to persevere

Adjectives: persevering

Synonyms: continuance; persistence; firmness; grit; resolution; pluck

Antonyms: giving up; surrendering



November Book of the Month: *Wednesday Surprise* by Eve Bunting

Grades K-3

I. Reading Comprehension: Answer the following questions in the spaces below (or out loud):

1. Who are the main characters in this book?

2. What does Anna's father do for a living?

3. Where does Sam go on Wednesday nights?

4. When do you learn about the surprise?

5. Why is the name of the book "The Wednesday Surprise"?

6. How long have Anna and Grandma been practicing reading?

II. Fill in the Blanks:

Fill in the blanks with the correct word from the story.

Anna and her grandmother practice reading on _____ nights.

Grandma carries a big cloth _____ when she visits Anna.

Anna and her Grandma plan a _____ for Anna's father's birthday.

Anna's father brings her a pebble that he found in the _____.

Anna and Sam help their mother _____ the birthday cake.

After Grandma reads out loud, Mom, Dad, and Sam are all _____. (What is their reaction?)

III. Sequencing:

Write "1" next to the 1st thing that happened in the book, then "2" for the 2nd thing, etc.

◆ Sam walks Grandma to the bus stop.
◆ Anna waits for her grandmother to get off the bus.
◆ Grandma reads a book to the family.
◆ Anna's father arrives home.
◆ Anna and her Grandma read a story together.

IV. Summarizing:

Write or tell a short summary of the book.

V. Discussion:

Wednesday Surprise & Perseverance

1. The word "illiterate" describes a person who cannot read or write. Do you know anyone who is illiterate?
2. Why do you need to persevere to learn how to read?
3. Do you think that Anna is a good reading teacher? Why/why not?
4. Why do you think Anna's father cries when he hears his mother read?
5. Discuss a reason that Anna or her grandmother might have given up on their reading sessions.
6. What does Grandma mean when she says: "It's much smarter if you learn to read when you're young"?
7. Have you persevered in learning how to do something? What was it? How long did it take for you to learn it?
8. What are some things that would be difficult to do for a person who cannot read?
9. How do you think Grandma's life will change now that she can read?

VI. Activities:

Complete one or both of the below activities:

1. Choose a picture from the book and copy it. Write a caption for your picture.
2. If possible, visit a nursing home and read a book to an elderly person.

ANSWER KEY

I. Reading Comprehension

1. The main characters are Anna, Grandma, Sam, Mom, and Dad.
2. He drives a truck.
3. Sam goes to basketball practice at the Y.
4. They surprise Anna's father on his birthday.
5. It's called *The Wednesday Surprise* because Wednesday is the night that Anna and her grandmother practice reading.
6. They've been practicing for weeks and weeks.

II. Fill in the Blanks

1. Wednesday
2. bag
3. surprise
4. desert
5. frost
6. astonished

III. Sequencing

◆ Sam walks Grandma to the bus stop.	3
◆ Anna waits for her grandmother to get off the bus.	1
◆ Grandma reads a book to the family.	5
◆ Anna's father arrives home.	4
◆ Anna and her Grandma read a story together.	2

IV. Summarize (Answers will vary)

Grandma and Anna are planning a wonderful surprise for Anna's father's birthday. While Anna's mother works late on Wednesday nights, Grandma comes over and reads with her granddaughter. When Anna's father, who is a truck driver, comes home from a trip, the family throws a birthday party for him. The big present of the evening comes when Grandma reads *The Velveteen Rabbit* aloud after the birthday cake. It's a surprise because she has been unable to read her entire life. Her granddaughter has been working with her every Wednesday night to teach her how to read. Anna's father is surprised and also very happy!

V. *The Wednesday Surprise & Perseverance*

1. Answers will vary.
2. It takes quite a while to learn how to read. You have to practice a lot and persist in your reading.
3. Answers will vary, but Anna is probably a good teacher because she was able to teach her grandmother how to read.
4. He cries because he has probably always wanted his mother to learn how to read but never thought that she would be able to do it. Now she can read, and his own daughter was the person who taught his mother! He's probably very proud and overwhelmed with emotion.
5. Answers will vary.
6. Grandma means that things are easier to learn when you're younger and your brain is sharper.
7. Answers will vary.
8. It would be difficult to attend school, read a train or bus schedule, write a grocery list, read signs, menus, letters, newspapers or magazines, vote in an election, etc.
9. Answers will vary, but Grandma's life will most likely improve because she can be more independent (she won't have to depend on others to read to her) and will be able to enjoy books, magazines, and newspapers, etc.