
Literature Selection: *Best Friends* by Steven Kellogg

Summary

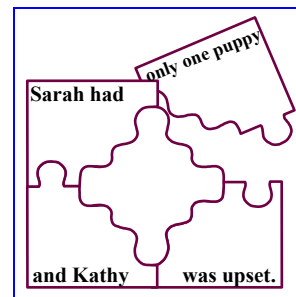
When Kathy and Louise are separated over the summer, Kathy becomes jealous of Louise's new friends. Kathy feels lonely and she thinks that Louise does not miss her at all. Kathy is mad and she begins to think of ways she can "fix" Louise for not being her best friend anymore. The girls sort things out and Kathy realizes she is lucky to have a special friend like Louise.

Suggested Activities

- Story Puzzle
- Sorting Characteristics
- Pantomiming Emotions
- Open Journal Response

Story Puzzle

On durable cardboard, students draw a picture of one of their favorite events from *Best Friends* and then they write a sentence that describes what they have drawn. Next, the completed picture and sentence are cut up into puzzle pieces. Encourage children to vary the shape and size of each puzzle piece, avoiding straight lines. The puzzle pieces are mixed up and the students trade their puzzle with another student.



Students assemble the puzzles. Once the students have had the chance to put a few puzzles together, discuss the events they decided to record and classify the puzzles as a beginning, middle or concluding event. Once the puzzles have been classified, discuss the results. Have more children picked a middle event to reproduce? Why might this be? Discuss where the events fit in on a plot development graph.

Sorting Words

Get students talking about the words in this literature selection. Below is a list of words from *Best Friends*. In pairs (or individually) students cut up the words and sort them into categories such as friendly words, feelings, characteristics of friends, and so forth. Students can make up their own categories as long as they can support why they have sorted the words the way they have.

play	nurse	afraid
worried	lucky	help
share	lonely	fun
jealous	special	excited
pretended	fair	mad
glad	rescue	

Pantomiming Emotions¹

In *Best Friends*, Kathy experiences many different emotions during her friendship with Louise. Below are some cards that describe an event and an emotion. Cut the cards up and have students (in groups) pantomime the emotion while other classmates guess what emotion is being pantomimed.

<p>WORRIED</p> <p>Kathy is worried that Louise has forgotten all about her during her summer vacation.</p>	<p>JEALOUS</p> <p>Kathy receives a postcard from Louise and she learns that Louise is making all kinds of new friends.</p>	<p>LONELY</p> <p>Louise's Aunt and Uncle have just taken Louise away for the summer and Kathy is feeling very lonely.</p>
<p>SADNESS</p> <p>"Summer came, and so did Louise's Aunt and Uncle. They took her to a mountain resort for a vacation."</p>	<p>WILD CARD!</p> <p>Act out any emotion.</p>	<p>MAD</p> <p>Only one puppy is born and Louise gets it. Kathy is really mad because now she doesn't get one at all!</p>
<p>HAPPINESS</p> <p>Louise tells Kathy that the puppy should belong to both of them.</p>	<p>EMBARRASSED</p> <p>Kathy has had horrible thoughts about Louise during the summer and when she learns she had been wrong she is embarrassed.</p>	<p>EXCITEMENT</p> <p>Kathy is excited to when she learns Sarah is going to have puppies and she gets to have one!</p>

Open Journal Response

Students respond to the story in their journals in any way they feel is appropriate. The type of response is entirely up to the students but you may need to offer some suggestions to get some students started. Possible responses may include:

- writing about how something similar has happened to them
- creating a poem in response
- changing the ending
- discussing what they liked or disliked about the story or characters
- stating an opinion or observations about the illustrations
- explaining what they would like to change about the book and why

¹ Adapted from *Language Arts Activities for Children, 3rd ed.*, by Donna Norton. Page 49, part d.

Literature Selection: *The True Francine* by Marc Brown

Summary

Francine's friend Muffy copies Francine's answers on a test and then Muffy lets Francine take the blame for cheating. Muffy eventually realizes she must face the consequences of her actions and the girls make up.

Suggested Activities

- Dilemma Cards -- Role Playing
- Diary Entry
- Poster Making
- Creating Riddles

Dilemma Cards

If friendships are going to be healthy and successful, children must understand that being a good friend comes with some responsibilities. Good friends should be honest and trustworthy. In *The True Francine*, students will learn about the consequences of making a bad decision and being an unfaithful friend. Children face problems every day and often the decisions they have to make are not easy. Practice making "good" decisions by role-playing dilemmas. Some dilemma cards are provided on page 40 or students can brainstorm dilemmas to role-play that they have faced in their own lives.

Diary Entry

Muffy has been dishonest and she has been unfriendly. How must she feel knowing what she has done to her friend? Write a diary entry, pretending you are Muffy. Write about how you feel, explain why you lied, and explain how you think Francine is feeling about what you have done.

**Poster Making**

Decorate the classroom with colorful posters that are full of tips on how to be a good friend, how to deal with difficulties in a friendship, how to make up after a fight, how to make a new friend and so forth.

Creating Riddles

Have students create their own friendship riddles. Give the students time to try to solve some of the riddles created by classmates.

Examples:

- What do a good friend and a wall have in common? They can both be leaned on.
- Why did the child laugh when his friend said he would listen to all of his problems? His friend was all ears!
- What does a worm stuck under someone's shoe and a good friend have in common? They are both under-standing!

Additional Literature Suggestions:

***Rosie & the Yellow Ribbon* by Paula DePaolo**

When her favorite yellow hair ribbon goes missing, Rosie accuses her friend Lucille of taking it. Rosie learns of her mistake and must apologize to her friend.

***Time for School Nathan!* by Lulu Delacre**

Nicholas is jealous when Nathan goes off to school and makes some new friends.

***Rosie and Michael* by Judith Viorst**

This story presents a realistic overview of the ups and downs of a good friendship.

***Three Wishes* by Lucille Clifton**

Zenobia and her friend Victor have a fight about the three wishes she should make on a lucky penny. Once Victor leaves her home she uses her last wish to win her friend back.