

Flower Girl Butterflies

Elizabeth Fitzgerald Howard
2004
Harper Collins, Greenwillow Books

COURAGE

CONCEPTS

Courage
Love

SUMMARY

Sarah is excited about being a flower girl in her Aunt Robin's wedding, but she's also worried. What if she trips or gets sick or forgets to throw the flowers? When Sarah shares her feelings with her mother and other family members, she is reassured and gains courage to walk down the aisle. Sarah then helps her young cousin, who is nervous about being a ring bearer. Christine Kromer's rich watercolor and colored pencil illustrations capture Sarah's anxiety and joy, and complement this story of love and celebration of family.

OBJECTIVE

Children will recognize courage as overcoming fears. They will learn about family love related to parents, grandparents, and extended families.

Circle Time (in the Heartwood Circle)

Flower Girl Butterflies

PREVIEW

1. Read the title, and explain what it means to have "butterflies in your stomach."
2. Read the first page ("Something Special"), show the illustration, and ask children why Sarah is scared.
3. Ask children to find **COURAGE** on the Heartwood attribute poster.
4. Show contents of the Prop Box, such as a white dress, veil, bouquets of artificial flowers, artificial flower petals, basket, pillow, ring, costume jewelry, men's hats, small toys, and a copy of *Flower Girl Butterflies*.

READING

1. Read the story uninterrupted or in two parts (up to "The Rehearsal" and from "The Rehearsal" to the end).
2. Choose sections of the story to read as a play. Have children take parts such as Sarah, Aunt Robin, Mommy, Willie, Uncle Joey, and Cousin Chaz. Read as a narrator and cue children to say dialogue in their own words.

After the Story

DISCUSSION

1. Why do people get married? What does it mean for the people getting married? For their families?
2. Discuss Sarah's feelings about being a flower girl. Who helps her to be brave? How does Sarah help Willie? Who helps you to have courage? How do family members show love to each other? How do you show love to your relatives?

After the Story (cont.)

ACTIVITIES

1. Re-read the first paragraph of "Guests Are Coming." Together make a list of things you can do to make relatives feel welcome when they visit.
2. Play the game, "You Can Do It." Sit in a circle and brainstorm times you get "butterflies" and need to have courage, such as performing in a play, going to the dentist, or batting in a baseball game. Take turns finishing this sentence, "I get butterflies in my stomach when..." Have all the children say "But you can do it, yes you can!" after each turn.

WRAP-UP

1. Have children display courage by having "show and tell" with their favorite doll or toy animal on a stage in a large auditorium or other place where presentations are held.
2. In *My Heartwood Journal* have children draw a picture and dictate a sentence about situations where they get butterflies and show courage (see Activity #2). Write titles for the drawings with the word "butterflies," for example, "Baseball Butterflies."

EXTENSION

Children complete the Home Connection Page and teachers record their responses. Send these pages home to children's families.

Expressive Arts

DRAMA/LANGUAGE

1. Prop Box: Use items in the box for retelling and acting out the story or for small group creative play.
2. Mini-Manners Plays*: With finger puppets, model courage. For example:
Puppet 1: I'm scared.
Puppet 2: Why?
Puppet 1: I'm in a play. I might mess up.
Puppet 2: You can do it, even if you're scared.
Puppet 1: O.K. I'll try.
3. Teach children to sign emotions such as "happy," "excited," and "scared." (Keyword: ASL browser)

ART

1. Together make a scrapbook of family celebrations. Have each child decorate a page with photographs or drawings of family members celebrating an event such as a birthday, wedding, or picnic. Encourage children to glue or tape candles, party hats, napkins or other mementos to their pages. Have children "read" their pages to the class.
2. Make butterfly cookies. Roll out refrigerator sugar cookie dough, cut cookies with a butterfly cookie cutter, bake, and have children decorate cookies with colored icing.

MUSIC/MOVEMENT

1. Play wedding music, such as "Here Comes the Bride," and march down a pretend aisle.
2. Use yoga to teach children relaxation techniques. (Keyword: yoga kids)
3. Give children scarves and have them whirl and twirl to dance music.