



A TEACHER'S GUIDE FOR A REAL CHRISTMAS THIS YEAR

This teacher's guide is designed to assist you in creating talking points and ideas for classroom activities in conjunction with school visits.



**A REAL CHRISTMAS
THIS YEAR**
by Karen Lynn Williams

THEMES IN THIS BOOK

- Family

In the story Megan wishes her family was "normal"? What makes a normal family? Most families have problems, hard times and happy times. What are the difficulties your family must share? How can you help?

- Friendship

Megan and her best friend, Amy have some problems. They are caused by miscommunication and misunderstanding. Have you had these kinds of problems with friends? How did you work them out? How could you have worked them out better? What would you do differently? In the book Megan makes a promise to Amy. She does not want to keep the promise but she knows she must because Amy is her friend. Do you always keep your promises? Is it OK to break a promise to a friend sometimes? What is the best way to do that?

- Handicaps

Keith has multiple handicaps. What does this mean? Do you know anyone who is handicapped? How do you feel about that person? How could you get to know that person better?

- Holidays

Every family has special holidays and special traditions? Why are traditions important?

- Relationships

Megan is learning how to balance many different relationships with family and friends in this book. What does she learn about Amy, Scott, Kristen and David? What about her father, mother and sister? What does Megan learn about herself from these relationships?



These children that Karen taught, pictured above, were the inspiration for this story.



A TEACHER'S GUIDE FOR BASEBALL & BUTTERFLIES continued

SUBJECT AREAS IDEAS

- Language Arts
Pick one of the themes above. Write a story or an essay or a personal non-fiction piece.
- Art
Megan likes to make gifts. Design and make a gift for someone special or a decoration or ornament for a special holiday. Be creative and imaginative. Make it as professional as possible.
- Health
Discuss healthy boy-girl relationships, healthy friendships, healthy family relationships.
- Science
Pick a handicap and research it. Some handicaps are genetic, some are birth defects, some are caused by events or illnesses after birth. What are the differences? What are the causes?
- Social Studies
Research Christmas, the history of the holiday and the different ways it is celebrated in different countries. Or research another holiday. What are some ideas you might want to integrate into your family holiday?
- Math
Megan is having some financial problems. She wants to go on the ski trip and she wants to help pay for Keith's glasses and hearing aids to be repaired as well as have Christmas gifts for her family and a grab bag gift for the party. Think of the things you will need and want to spend money on for the next month. Make up a budget to show how you will pay for these things.



Karen at Christmas time as a young girl.



Karen's children at Christmas in 1980.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Karen Williams is available to speak and share her stories on this and many of her other books. Please visit www.karenlynnwilliams.com for more information on the books and other information about Karen.