



A TEACHER'S GUIDE FOR FIRST GRADE KING

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



FIRST GRADE KING
by Karen Lynn Williams

THEMES IN THIS BOOK

- Beginnings

How does Joey feel about beginning first grade? He is both excited and a little nervous. First grade does not start out exactly the way he expected. What things go wrong? What things happened that Joey did not expect? Think about the first time you tried something new. How did you feel?

- Bullies

Ronald is a bully. He makes fun of Joey and Madeline. He picks on them. Do you know anyone like this? How does it make you feel? Why do you think they behave this way? What can you do about it? What does Joey do? How do you think Ronald feels?

- Handicaps (visual impairments)

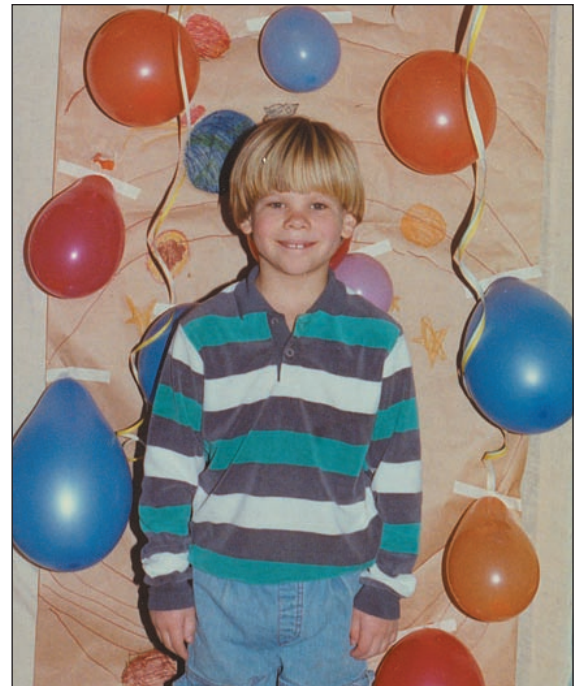
Madeline has a vision problem. How does Joey feel about this? What does he do to help Madeline? How do you think Madeline feels in the story? What things does she have trouble with? What is she good at? Do you know someone who has a handicap? How could you make friends with that person?

- Friendships

Christopher and Joey are friends right from the start of first grade. At first Joey is not really friends with Madeline. How does this change? Why do you think they become friends? Do you think Joey will become friends with Ronald?

- Problems (worries)

What are some of the things Joey worries about? Do you ever worry about things like having a substitute teacher?



My son Christopher was a lot like Joey in the book.



The Linden Avenue School was the setting for this story.



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SUBJECT AREAS IDEAS

- Language Arts

Think about the first time you did something new. Write or tell a story about it.

- Science

Madeline gives a presentation about her vision problems. Talk about the sense of sight. What are the parts of the eye? Draw the eye and label these parts. What senses do you use to help you if you can't see? Madeline must touch the coin to see how much it is worth. Blindfold each other and discover how much you can learn from the sense of touch.

- Physical education

What happens when the children in Joey's class take turns leading a blindfolded class mate around the playground? Try it. How does it feel to be the blindfolded person? The leader? This is often called a "trust walk." Why?

- Music

Joey is worried about having a substitute teacher. One of the things he does not expect is that she plays the harmonica. Listen to some harmonica music. How does it sound? What kinds of songs are usually played on a harmonica? How does a harmonica work? If they are available, try playing a harmonica. What is pitch? Tone? How do these change on a harmonica? Why? What class of instrument is a harmonica?



Christopher: then and now..

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.