



A TEACHER'S GUIDE FOR ONE THING I'M GOOD AT

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



ONE THING I'M GOOD AT
by Karen Lynn Williams

THEMES IN THIS BOOK

- Self-esteem

Self-esteem is how you feel about yourself. A person with a healthy self-esteem knows his or her strengths and weaknesses and develops his strengths. How does Julie feel about herself? As a reader? As a big sister? How do you think her feelings change by the end of the book?

- Friendship

Julie is having some problems with her best friend Abbey. She is not sure where she fits into Glenda's crowd and she learns some interesting things about Marlene. She also likes to play marbles with the boys. Think about your own friendships. Do you hang out with a certain crowd or do you have friends in different groups? How do they all get along? What can you do to be a better friend? What are some good ways to get to know someone new?

- Strengths and Weaknesses

Everyone is good at something, better at other things and not so good at still other things. What do you do well? What kinds of things do you have trouble with? What would you like to do better and how could you work at it? What about Julie? What is she good at and what does she need help with?

- Family

Julie is the middle child in her family. Where do you fall in your family? In some ways Julie seems more mature than her older sister and she is the one who takes care of her younger brother and teaches him things. What kinds of roles do you play in your family?

- Honesty

There are several instances in the book where the question of honesty comes into the story. Marlene takes Julie's marbles in one case. In another instance, Julie plans to forge her mother's signature on her poor work papers. Why do you think people behave dishonestly sometimes? Is it ever OK to be dishonest? Have you ever been dishonest? How did you feel?



Bean practices on the telephone like this child.



This is a kite like the one Julie and Bean fly.



A TEACHER'S GUIDE FOR ONE THING I'M GOOD AT continued

SUBJECT AREAS IDEAS

- Language Arts

At the end of the book, the class is asked to write an essay about "One Thing I'm Good At." Try writing about something you do well. Write about a time you solved a friendship problem. Write about your place in your family.

- Spelling

In the book, Julie must participate in a spelling bee. Pick words from the story like prehensile and arithmetic and words that Julie had to spell. Have a spelling bee. Be kind to the people who must sit out early.

- History

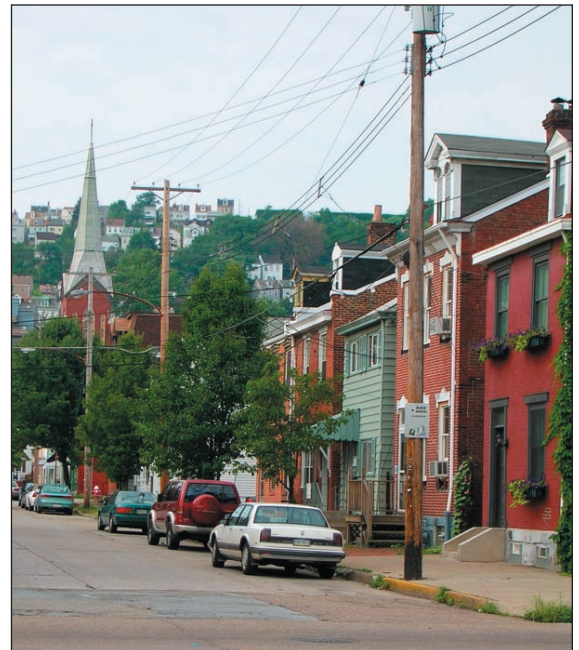
In the book Julie is a champion marble player. Marbles is an age-old game that is played in many cultures. Research games like Jacks and Jump-rope. Learn a new game. Teach a game to the class.

- Art

Julie likes to make things. She designs a three-dimensional birthday card with a kite on it. Design a special greeting card. Be creative, imaginative and different. Make your card meaningful. Make sure you check the spelling.

- Science/Health

There are many different kinds of handicaps. In the story Julie has difficulty learning to read. What kinds of handicaps could cause a problem with reading? What special abilities do you use to read? Julie's Dad has a heart attack. Study the heart. What are the different parts of the heart? What kinds of things can cause a heart attack? What can you do to help make sure you keep a healthy heart? Discuss the importance of self-esteem. How can you create a healthy self-esteem for yourself and others?



This Pittsburgh neighborhood, called the South Side, was the inspiration for the community where Julie lives.

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.