

Wemberly Worried

by Kevin Henkes

Lively illustrations help reveal all the worries of Wemberly, including her biggest worry of all, her first day of school.



Read

Before:

Introduce the book and tell the children a little bit about it. Follow that with a comment or question that is related to the story such as, *This is a book about a young mouse who worries about anything and everything imaginable. She's what you'd call a "worrywart."* Encourage a discussion so the children can comment, ask questions, and express their feelings. Set the stage for listening by asking an "I wonder" statement based on the cover illustration.

- I wonder why Wemberly is hugging that doll?

During:

Encourage the children to comment on the illustrations, ask questions, and predict what will happen next in the story. Children gain confidence and a sense of achievement through being able to correctly predict how a story will end. Point out "rare words" (e.g., those words that are not commonly used in every day conversation) and help the children relate the meaning in a way that makes sense to them.

Rare Words in *Wemberly Worried*

- worried: to be anxious or concerned
- between: from one place or thing to another
- radiator: a room heater with pipes
- bolts: a short screw used to hold things together
- especially: to an unusual or exceptional degree
- peeked: to take a quick look at something

After:

Discuss the story. Ask questions...

- What are some of the things that Wemberly worried about? What are some things that you worry about?
- What did Wemberly do to help her stop worrying? What do you do to stop worrying?
- Do you remember how you felt on your first day of school? Were you excited? Were you worried?
- How do you think Wemberly will feel on the second day of school? Will she still be worried?

Balloon Relay

Activity: Balloon relay.

Purpose: To have fun while encouraging and supporting others – especially someone who is worried!

Materials: Balloons.

Procedure: Have a balloon relay (e.g., blow a balloon across the room). Explain to the children that it is important to encourage others to succeed. While one child is blowing the balloon across the room, the others act as cheerleaders. The activities themselves are secondary. The focus here should be on the children who are cheering. Show them the joys and positive effects of cooperatively supporting others.

Other relays:

Form a bucket brigade to fill the water table.

Blow a feather across the room.

Carry a Ping-Pong ball in a large spoon across the room.

Rice, Judith Ann (1995). *The Kindness Curriculum, Introducing Young Children To Loving Values*.