

De Pasquale Publications
Primary Grades Lesson Plan - "GOTCHA!"
Speaking, Listening, Reading, Writing



Discussion Questions for students before reading the book:

Do you have a pet? Cat? Dog? Other? Do they ever get a crazy burst of energy and run around in circles? In my book we call them "Zoomies". Jessie gets very excited because her Gotcha Day is coming up. Do you know what a "Gotcha Day" is? It's the day that is celebrated similar to a birthday, but because Jessie was adopted, and we don't know when her birthday is, we celebrate the day we adopted her from the shelter. If you were going to celebrate a birthday or any other special occasion, and you could have all of your favorite foods, what would you choose? "GOTCHA!" is a story about Jessie's Gotcha Day Celebration. She has so many favorite foods.

Read the story "GOTCHA!"
Give time for student feedback

Review the parts of the story: beginning, middle and end
Beginning: Jessie gets the zoomies, starts thinking about food and drifts off to sleep
Middle: Jessie ends up in a far away strange place with all of her favorite foods there. Everyone is celebrating her special day.
End: Jessie ends up waking up to her favorite foods because her adventure happened in her dreams.

Have students pick a partner or work in small groups and tell another student about a special event they have had or one they would like to have. They may also want to tell about a friend or family member's special celebration.

Start with a description of the special occasion and all of the fun and exciting things that happened or will happen there. Will it all be a dream? Will there be talking animals involved? Use your imagination.

After some sharing time, ask volunteers to share their stories verbally with the whole group.

Discuss setting: Where did Jessie's story take place? Your story needs to have a setting. Have students share possible settings for their stories. Share examples/sentence starters to start off the stories: "Once when I was..." or "My special day started when..."

Next, have students share the "middle" of their story. Identify the most exciting part: what fun events were happening and what food was served at their special celebration? How did they feel, what did they do, what was their first reaction? Was it a surprise party?

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(Continued)

The ending of their story would be a reflection on the event. What has changed? How is their life different/better? Did you try new games or new foods you have never had. Did you meet new people?

Next, have students write a story. Depending on skill levels, mention complete sentences, paragraph formation, vivid descriptions (3 short paragraphs)
Stories can be bound in a book, shared, and/or made into a project with illustration(s).

Created by: A. De Pasquale, De Pasquale Publications, June 2022

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Upper Elementary/Middle School Grades Lesson Plan - “Gotcha!”

Speaking, Listening, Reading, Writing



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Do you have a pet? Cat? Dog? Other? Do they ever get a crazy burst of energy and run around in circles? In my book we call them “Zoomies”. Jessie gets very excited because her Gotcha Day is coming up. Do you know what a “Gotcha Day” is? It’s the day that is celebrated similar to a birthday, but because Jessie was adopted, and we don’t know when her birthday is, we celebrate the day we adopted her from the shelter.

Read the story “GOTCHA!”

Give time for student feedback

Review the parts of the story: beginning, middle and end

Beginning: Jessie gets the zoomies, starts thinking about food and drifts off to sleep

Middle: Jessie ends up in a far away strange place with all of her favorite foods there. Everyone is celebrating her special day.

End: Jessie ends up waking up to her favorite foods because her adventure happened in her dreams.

Talk about letter format:

What are the main parts of a friendly letter?

Date, greeting, body paragraph(s), closing

Begin with either an interesting story about your pet or a friend’s pet or family member’s pet (a funny story about something that happened), or something you may have in common with Jessie or her “GOTCHA!” story (a shelter adoption, a favorite food), a book, movie or similar story you want to share.

Activity: Write a letter to Jessie, to a family member, or to the author, using proper friendly letter format.

The letters can be sent or written online and sent electronically (Please see contact information on the website).