

Teaching Ideas for Kevin Henkes Author Study

Bring in as many Kevin Henkes books as you can find. Bless them by showing them to the students, perhaps reading a bit from each one, then display them for reading. Keep back these five books:

- Chrysanthemum
- Sheila Rae, the Brave
- Julius, the Baby of the World
- A Weekend With Wendell
- Lilly's Purple Plastic Purse

These five books will be used as interactive read-alouds, then can be displayed for repeated reading time afterwards.

Kevin Henkes books are rich in vocabulary. Use the included vocabulary words with each book:

1. Introduce the words before reading the story. Brainstorm what they could mean by identifying base words and word parts. Alternatively, provide two definitions for each word, have the students vote on which one they think is correct, then confirm or change predictions during the story through think-alouds.
2. Each student should keep their own "Table Talk" Book to write and illustrate new vocabulary words in. This can be as simple as copy paper folded in half and stapled, or you could use the page provided. "Table Talk" means students should take their booklets home and share their new words at the dinner table.
3. Display the new vocabulary words on word strips. Be sure to refer to them frequently during class discussions and encourage students to use them in their writing. Word strips for laminating are at the end of this unit.

Provide plenty of time for students to buddy-read the other Kevin Henkes books. They can fill in their Book Log Charts after each one.

Make a horizontal bar graph titled, "Our Favorite Characters." Each child places a sticky note by their favorite character and has to explain why he or she chose that character. Allow students to move their sticky notes around if they change their minds.

Sheila Rae, the Brave

Theme: Being brave means making wise choices too.

Build Background Knowledge

Share with the students a time you were lost as a child. Make it interesting (if you have to embellish a bit, that's okay!). Ask them to turn to an elbow buddy and share a time they were lost or frightened.

Allow a few children to share their stories. Then tell them they are going to read a book called Shelia Rae, the Brave. Discuss what the word "brave" means. Brainstorm on a T-Chart some synonyms and antonyms for "brave."

You will use this during the read aloud.

Interactive Read Aloud

Make predictions about the book before and during reading. What might Sheila Rae be brave about? What do you think Shelia Rae is going to do and why?

As you read the book, stop at strategic points to share your thinking with the children (thinking about reading).

On the T-Chart, point out specific words that were brainstormed. Underline or circle them in a different color. For example, "I think Shelia Rae is showing "fearlessness" in this part of the story. I'm going to circle that word to remind me." If the word isn't on the chart, feel free to add it.

Use [reciprocal teaching](#) before, during and after the story.

Name: _____

Sometimes I'm Sophie, but Sometimes I'm Wendel

I am like Sophie when I

I am like Wendell when I

Name: _____

Sort Out The Behaviors

Sort the Behavior Word Strips into two groups (your choice!). After you have sorted them, give each group a title that explains why you sorted them that way.

Using kind words
Making faces at people
Telling others what to do all the time
Taking turns
Sharing toys
Calling someone names
Scaring other people
Having patience with others
Taking friends toys
Picking on others
Giving a compliment
Tattle telling

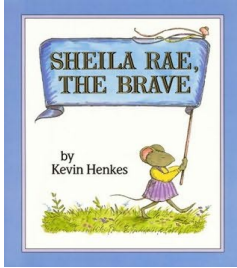
Vocabulary Word Cards to Laminate

wilted

envious

dreadful

bloomed



Name: _____

Shelia Rae, The Brave Story Retelling

Start at the top of the chain. Write the main characters and the setting. In the link to the RIGHT, write the problem. In the link to the LEFT, put the solution. In the remaining 3 links, write 3 important events that led to the solution.

Draw a picture in the middle showing the problem.

