

A Birthday for Danny's Bee



by Mia Coulton

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Level D / 78 words / fiction

High frequency words:

have, just, little, now, said, this, you

Before reading

- Look at the cover and read the title.
- Possible discussion questions: "Looking at the cover, how can you tell it's Bee's birthday? What does Bee have on the plate?"

Look through all the pictures

- Using the language in the story, discuss what is happening in each picture.
- Help the children find the high-frequency words: *have, just, and little*.
- Have the children find the words that may be new to them: *birthday, inside, and cake*.

Reading the text

- Have the children read the text independently. Encourage them to read it again if they finish before the others in the group.
- While they're reading, listen to each student individually and prompt them to use meaning, structure, and letter cues at difficulty. Praise the successful use of reading cues.
- Make sure the children can match (with their finger) or track (with their eyes) each word of the text.

After reading

- Discuss the meaning, structure, and letter cues that you notice students using correctly.
- **Literal comprehension:** The answers are in the text. Ask, "Can you list all the things that Danny gives Bee in the story?" Have students read the pages that support their answers.

- **Inferential comprehension:** The answers are in your head. Ask, "Which item do you think Bee likes best? What would you give Bee for his birthday?"

Word work

- Have the students locate the high-frequency words in the text and practice writing them.
- Help the students locate the two-syllable words *today* and *birthday*. The word *birthday* is a compound word. Ask students to find the two words that make the word *birthday*.
- Have the students find the words: *made, cake, and named*. Point out the *long a* sound in each word.

Rereading for fluency

- Have the children read the story again, either independently or with a partner.
- Use this opportunity to listen to one child and again prompt for strategy use at the point of difficulty.

Writing activity

- Have each student write each birthday item from the story on a separate card: *hat, cake, card, and box*. Have them draw a picture on the card that matches each word, and then have the students put the cards in sequential order to match the text.
- Encourage the use of punctuation and independent attempts to spell words correctly.

FUN FACT

The most popular birthday month is August. Nearly 9% of all birthdays worldwide occur in August.

Teaching Points: Introducing new words; Finding and clapping two-syllable words; Practicing the *long a* sound; Introducing compound words; Sequencing.