



Harry and the Lady Next Door

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GRL J

ABOUT THE BOOK:

Harry loves the low, soft notes of the cows mooing, the even lower, softer sound of the big horn in the band, and the low, beautiful sound of the bull frogs in the watering cans. But Harry hates the high, loud singing of the lady next door. Harry and his friends attempt to cover up her singing by howling under her window and running away with her music, but nothing will stop her from singing. Finally, the lady next door wins a singing contest and moves to a faraway country to sing; the best music Harry has ever heard is the deep, low, wonderful sound of the ship's foghorn as the lady next door leaves the country.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Other than Harry, who doesn't like the singing of the lady next door? What do the others do when they hear her sing?
2. What attempts does Harry make to stop the lady next door from singing? What happens to Harry as a result of his failed attempts?
3. Why does the band leader get mad at Harry? Why can't the Firemen's Band play its concert at the park?
4. Why does the lady next door win the singing contest? Why does the man describe the lady as brave?

The above questions correlate to Common Core State Standards (Reading): RL.1.1, RL.2.1, and RL.3.1; (Speaking & Listening): SL.1.1, SL.2.1, and SL.3.1; SL.1.3, SL.2.3 and SL.3.3.

EXTENSION ACTIVITIES:

Smarter Than the Average Dog: Harry proves he is a smart dog by attempting to solve his problem with the lady next door and her terrible singing. Ask students to work with a partner to make a chronological list of all the attempts Harry makes to stop the lady from singing. Then, using their list as a prompt, ask students to retell the story to one another alternating the speaker with each event. After completing the story, ask students to decide upon the message the author was trying to convey and to write the author's message on a sentence strip to post in the classroom. *This activity correlates to Common Core State Standards (Reading Literature): RL.1.2, RL.2.2, and RL.3.2; (Speaking & Listening): SL.1.4, SL.2.4, and SL.3.4.*

Singing High and Loud: Harry did not like the singing of the lady next door. Show students one of the opera performances in this video: www.youtube.com/watch?v=J-GPxk8n0aE. Then ask students to write their reaction to the singing and to explain why Harry's ears hurt when she sang. As a class, discuss different genres of music. Have students pick their favorite genre, explain why they like that genre best, and, if they know them, give names of examples in that genre. Have students share their preferences in groups of four to five. *This activity correlates to Common Core State Standards (Writing): W.1.1, W.2.1, and W.3.1; (Language): L.1.1, L.2.1, and L.3.1; L.1.2, L.2.2, and L.3.2.*

The Lady Next Door: Despite the fact that Harry, the peanut man, and the firemen do not like the singing of the lady next door, other people do like her singing. Most readers will focus on only Harry's opinion of the lady next door and her singing. Ask students to be careful observers of the lady next door and her talent and character traits. Have students create a character map or web and, as a class, brainstorm what they can learn about the lady next door from the illustrations, the events that occur involving her singing, and others' reactions to her. Then have students pick the character trait they feel is the most important and write two to three sentences explaining their choice based on evidence from the book. Have students share in small groups and post student responses in the classroom. *This activity correlates to Common Core State Standards (Reading Literature): RL.1.7, RL.2.7, and RL.3.7; (Writing): W.1.2, W.2.2, and W.3.2, W.1.5, W.2.5, and W.3.5; (Language): L.1.1, L.2.1, and L.3.1; L.1.2, L.2.2, and L.3.2.*

I Think This Book... Ask students to write the title, the author, and the illustrator of the book and then state their opinion of the story by writing, drawing, or dictating what they liked about the book using specific details in the book to support their opinion. Then have students compare the book to another book that they have read that they liked. Have students depict and label their favorite things from both books. Have students share their writing or drawing with the class. *This activity correlates to Common Core State Standards (Writing): W.1.1, W.2.1, and W.3.1; (Language): L.1.1, L.2.1, and L.3.1; L.1.2, L.2.2, and L.3.2.*

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