



## Penny and Her Doll

By Kevin Henkes

GRL J

### ABOUT THE BOOK:

Penny's gram sends her a beautiful doll, but Penny can't think of a name. Everyone else in the family has a name, her mom, her dad, the babies, and her. Mom and Dad both make doll name suggestions, but Penny isn't happy with those. Will she ever think of the perfect name? Mom and Dad say she will—but Penny isn't so sure.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. How would you describe the way Penny and her family feel about each other? Use examples from the story as part of your answer. How does Penny feel about her doll? How can you tell? *Common Core State Standards (Reading: Literature): RL.K.1., RL.1.1., RL.2.1., RL.3.1.*
2. What is Penny's primary obstacle in the story? Which actions does she take to try to overcome that obstacle? What does she do when the actions she takes don't help her? How does she ultimately overcome her obstacle? *Common Core State Standards (Reading: Literature): RL.K.3., RL.1.3., RL.2.3., RL.3.3.*
3. Describe what happens in the story in your own words. What would you say is its central message or lesson? Using examples from the story, explain why. *Common Core State Standards (Reading: Literature): RL.K.2., RL.1.2., RL.2.2., RL.3.2.*
4. How do the illustrations show the characters' personalities? How do they show the characters' thoughts and feelings, especially Penny's? How do they work with the story's words to show characters' personalities, thoughts, and feelings? *Common Core State Standards (Reading: Literature): RL.K.7., RL.1.7., RL.2.7., RL.3.7.*  
*Common Core State Standards (Speaking and Listening) that discussions might also address: SL.K.1a-b., SL.1.1a-c., SL.2.1a-c., SL.3.1a-d., SL.K.6., SL.1.6., SL.2.6., SL.3.6.*

### EXTENSION ACTIVITIES:

**Penny Play:** With help from your teacher, adapt this story into a play. You might also construct simple sets and costumes. Once you and your classmates have practiced, invite an audience, set up your recording equipment, and perform your Penny Play. You could even post the recording on your class website or blog. *Common Core State Standards (Speaking and Listening): SL.K.5., SL.1.5., SL.2.5., SL.3.5.*

**A Penny Letter for Gram:** Write, dictate, or draw a letter from Penny that tells her gram all about naming her doll. Tell Gram the challenge you, as Penny, faced trying to find the perfect name. Explain about the suggestions your parents made. Describe how you discovered the exact right name. If you want, add illustrations to your letter. With help from your teacher, show off your Penny Letter for Gram in your classroom. *Common Core State Standards (Writing): W.K.2., W.1.2., W.2.2., W.3.2a., W.3.2b., W.3.2c., W.3.2d.*

**That Cool Name:** Pick a name, maybe your own or your middle name or a name you've always liked. With help from your teacher, research what that name means, as well as its history and origin. Once you've completed your research, write, draw, or dictate everything you've learned about the name. You could even make maps to show where it's from or draw symbols that show what it means. Then hang your That Cool Name piece for all to see. *Common Core State Standards (Writing): W.K.2., W.1.2., W.2.2., W.3.2a., W.3.2b., W.3.2c., W.3.2d.*

**The Story of YOUR Favorite Toy:** Choose an adventure you've had with your favorite toy, such as how it came to live with you, when you once lost and found it, or maybe a time that it comforted you when you were scared. After you've chosen the adventure, write, draw, or dictate the Story of YOUR Favorite Toy. Then read your story to your toy—showing him, her, or it all your love. *Common Core State Standards (Writing): W.K.3., W.1.3., W.2.3., W.3.3a., W.3.3b., W.3.3c., W.3.3d.*

*Common Core State Standards (Writing) that writing activities might also address: W.K.5., W.1.5., W.2.5., W.3.5., W.K.6., W.1.6., W.2.6., W.3.6.*

Visit [www.icanread.com](http://www.icanread.com) for more teaching guides!

