



Penny and Her Song

By Kevin Henkes

GRL J

ABOUT THE BOOK:

Penny has her very own song, which she wants to share with her family. She tries to sing it to Mama and to Papa, but they don't want her to wake the babies. She tries to sing it to the mirror, but she really wants someone to listen to her. Will she ever get a chance to share her very own song?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Is it important to Penny to share her very own song? How can you tell? Using what you learn about her and her family, explain why you think it might be important to her. *Common Core State Standards (Reading: Literature): RL.K.1., RL.1.1., RL.2.1., RL.3.1.*
2. What things does Penny do or say that show her personality? How does she face the challenges in the story? How do her actions influence other characters? How do her actions bring a resolution to the story? *Common Core State Standards (Reading: Literature): RL.K.3., RL.1.3., RL.2.3., RL.3.3.*
3. What do you learn about Penny's home from the illustrations? How do the words and the illustrations work together to depict her home? How else do the illustrations help tell the story, in relation to characters and events? *Common Core State Standards (Reading: Literature): RL.K.7., RL.1.7., RL.2.7., RL.3.7.*
4. Retell this 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.*
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 Song—by You! Reread Penny's song, found on pages 18-19. Think about how this song might apply to Penny's life or your life. With your friends, create illustrations for the song. Then, with help from your teacher or librarian, make a video recording of you all singing the Penny Song and showing your illustrations for it. Afterward, you could play your version of the Penny Song for your family. *Common Core State Standards (Speaking and Listening): SL.K.5., SL.1.5., SL.2.5., SL.3.5.*

This Penny Review: Write, dictate, or draw a review of *Penny and Her Song*. What do you like best about this Penny story? The illustrations? Something Penny does or says? Something one of the other characters does or says? Explain the things you like best and why you like them. Make sure to add some great details from the story and the illustrations. If you'd like, you also could create reviews of other Penny books! *Common Core State Standards (Writing): W.K.1., W.1.1., W.2.1., W.3.1a., W.3.1b., W.3.1c., W.3.1d.*

Who's Your Favorite Character? Which character in this Penny story is your favorite? Why? What's the favorite thing your favorite character does or says? Maybe one of the illustrations is what makes him or her special? Once you've decided your answers to these questions, write, draw, or dictate the answer to "Who's Your Favorite Character?" Make sure to use examples from the story to support your opinion. *Common Core State Standards (Writing): W.K.1., W.1.1., W.2.1., W.3.1a., W.3.1b., W.3.1c., W.3.1d.*

Listen Up! Story: We all have times when we wish people would listen to us, but they have lots of reasons not to. Think about one of those times in your life. Brainstorm about it, including the way the situation made you feel as well as how you resolved the situation. Then write your Listen Up! story. When you're done, maybe share it with friends—and listen to their stories, too. *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.

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