



A Baby Sister for Frances

By Russell Hoban, pictures by Lillian Hoban

GRL K

ABOUT THE BOOK:

With a new baby sister around Frances's house, nothing is quite the same. Mother doesn't have time to go out shopping for Frances's favorite foods or to iron her blue dress. Frances decides she should leave, so she runs away to the dining room table. But running away isn't quite as fun as she thought it would be. Will Frances decide to come home?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. How does Frances seem to feel about her baby sister? How do those feelings cause her to act at the beginning of the story? Do her feelings change over the course of the story? How? Why? *Common Core State Standards (Reading: Literature): RL.K.3., RL.1.3., RL.2.3., RL.3.3.*
2. Why do Mother and Father act the way they do in response to Frances at the beginning of the story? Why do Mother and Father act the way they do in response to Frances in the middle and end of the story? How do their actions affect her and the overall storyline? *Common Core State Standards (Reading: Literature): RL.K.3., RL.1.3., RL.2.3., RL.3.3.*
3. Do the illustrations show exactly what's described in the words of the story, or do they show other things, too? Use evidence to support your answers. How do the illustrations add to your overall understanding of the story? *Common Core State Standards (Reading: Literature): RL.K.7., RL.1.7., RL.2.7., RL. 3.7.*
4. What does Frances seem to learn by the end of the story? How can you tell? Do you think her learning will change how she acts in the future? Why or why not? What might be the overall moral or lesson of the story? Explain your answer. *Common Core State Standards (Reading: Literature): RL.K.2., RL.1.2., RL.2.2., RL.3.2.*

EXTENSION ACTIVITIES:

Super Excellent Guidelines: In this story, Frances faces a challenge that she can't avoid or get rid of: a new baby sister. Of all the things Frances, Mother, and Father do to help her face her challenge, what works best? Once you consider the answers to this question, write up guidelines for her for facing this kind of challenge—and explain why each item on your Super Excellent Guideline would help so well. *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.*

Superb Song Illustrations: Pick out all the songs in this book. Then create illustrations for them. Maybe you want to show Frances singing. Or you could illustrate what actually happens in the songs themselves. Or you could draw each item in the songs. Anything goes! Once you're finished, present your Superb Song Illustrations, along with the song lyrics, for all to admire. *Common Core State Standards (Speaking and Listening): SL.K.5., SL.1.5., SL.2.5., SL.3.5.*

Running Away and Coming Home Story: Think about a time when you ran away or wanted to run away. You might also invent a situation that you think might make you consider running away. Why did you want to go? What did you plan to take and where did you plan to go? How did coming home make you feel? Write, draw, or dictate your true or fictional—and dramatic—Running Away and Coming Home story. *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.*

What Makes a Great Mother, Father, or Caregiver? Create a list of Mother, Father, or Caregiver greatness—things they do and don't do. Use examples from this or other Frances stories to show what you mean. You might also use examples from your own life or things you have observed. Then craft a poster, multimedia presentation, pamphlet, or whatever inspires you to display your answer to "What Makes a Great Mother, Father, or Caregiver?" *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.*

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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