



ABOUT THE BOOK:

On the day before her little sister Gloria’s birthday, Frances is not happy. It always seems to be someone else’s birthday, not hers. But she decides to buy a birthday present for Gloria, a Chompo Bar and bubble-gum balls. She accidentally eats the gum balls, and then she isn’t sure she’ll actually give the Chompo Bar to Gloria. It takes a little sisterly love to save the day.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. At the start of the story, what does Frances seem to feel about Gloria’s birthday? How can you tell? How do her feelings change? How do her feelings cause her actions throughout the story? *Common Core State Standards (Reading: Literature): RL.K.3., RL.1.3., RL.2.3., RL.3.3.*
2. Who is Alice? How can you tell? Why does Frances seem to like talking to Alice? What does Mother seem to think about Alice? How can you tell? *Common Core State Standards (Reading: Literature): RL.K.1., RL.1.1., RL.2.1., RL.3.1.*
3. On page 27, Mother says that she thinks Gloria’s birthday wish will come true “because it is a special kind of good wish that can make itself come true.” What does Mother mean by this? Does she seem to be right? Use evidence from the story to explain your answer. *Common Core State Standards (Reading: Literature): RL.K.1., RL.1.1., RL.2.1., RL.3.1.*
4. Retell this story. What are its central messages, lessons, or themes? Use details to support your answer. Why do these messages, lessons, or themes seem important to the characters? *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:

A Tale of Jousting with Jealousy: There has probably been a time in your life when you were jealous of a family member, a friend, or a classmate. Think about how you jostled with it—struggled to overcome your jealousy so you could have more fun or be a fairer friend. How did you struggle? How did you triumph in the end? Write, dictate, or draw your great Tale of Jousting with Jealousy. *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.*

Frances Music Video: Collect all of the songs by Frances, or pick one special one. With help from your teacher, create or collect images to go along with the songs. Also, craft any short explanations about the story that you think would go well with the songs. Then create your Frances Music Video by performing all you’ve collected and created. Show it to other classes or families, so they can share in the fun. *Common Core State Standards (Speaking and Listening): SL.K.5., SL.1.5., SL.2.5., SL.3.5.*

Recommending Favorite Sibling Stories: With help from your teacher create a poster or blog entry with reviews of sibling stories, including *A Birthday for Frances*. Write, dictate, or draw what makes each book you recommend great, as well as what makes them similar and different from each other. Also, describe what makes every single one special! *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.*

Which Character’s the Most Fabulous? Comic: Create a comic that shows which character in *A Birthday for Frances* is your favorite and why. Include your favorite examples from the story, like Frances “spelling” words or Gloria making her wish. Also, tell why you like these parts best. Once you’ve finished your comic, give it to friends to read, and ask about the characters they think are fabulous. *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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