

The Pain and the Great One

Written by Judy Blume

Illustrated by Irene Trivas

Published: 1985

ISBN: 10-0440409675

Length: 32 pages



Genre: Fiction

Subjects: Reading, Writing

Educational Themes: Family, Point of View, Sibling Rivalry, Conflict Resolution

SUMMARY

Students who have brothers or sisters can relate to this tale of sibling rivalry, *The Pain and The Great One*. In this story, two children, a girl known as The Great One, and her younger brother, aka The Pain, take turns explaining their views about each other. The book is divided into two parts. In the first part we learn that The Great One can't stand that the cat sleeps in her brother's room even though she feeds him. She also does not like that her brother gets to eat dessert without finishing dinner. When she complains about having the same bedtime as her "younger" brother, her parents let her stay up later than him. That's when she realizes that staying up late without him is not so much fun. The second part gives the reader The Pain's take on his older sister. He can't stand that she gets to watch the baby. He also does not like that she gets to feed the cat. When he complains to his parents that she always plays with the blocks, they let him play all by himself. That's when he realizes that playing with the blocks alone just isn't all that fun. In the end, The Pain and The Great One realize they need each other and enjoy each other more than they thought.

WHAT'S INSIDE

6-Traits

Writer's Craft

Habits of Mind

Hawaiian Value

General Learner Outcomes

6-TRAIT

IDEAS: This story is focused on how perspectives influence perceptions. The Great One and the Pain realize that things never seem quite fair when it comes to siblings.

VOICE: Written in first person, the narration gives the reader an inside perspective of two different characters.

ORGANIZATION: This book is structured differently than most books, organized into two parts, one for each character.

WRITER'S CRAFT

REPETITION: This story uses repetition of the sentence, "My sister thinks she's so great..." which adds to the fluency and voice of The Pain.

PRINT MANIPULATION: Font changes emphasize emotion and voice in this story.

POINT OF VIEW: This book is written in two sections; allowing the reader to understand each character's perspective in isolation.

Book Reviewer: Joseph Mazzullo, Literacy Resource Teacher

Date Reviewed: July 19, 2009

HABITS OF MIND

LISTENING WITH UNDERSTANDING AND EMPATHY: Both characters in this story need to learn the value of listening to each other.

FINDING HUMOR: This story highlights humorous aspects of sibling rivalry.

GENERAL LEARNER OUTCOMES

COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTOR: Both characters need to learn that it is important to get along.

EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATOR: It is necessary for The Pain and The Great One to communicate their feelings with each other.

THINGS TO TALK ABOUT AND NOTICE...

- The illustrations in this story add value for the reader. We can clearly see what The Pain does that annoys his sister. This can be a good tool to talk about the importance of illustrations.
- Point of view is a very important part of this story. Students can see that things seem different when we look from someone else's point of view. This is an important part of conflict resolution for students.

SAMPLE QUESTIONS

- What are some of the ways that The Pain bothered The Great One? When The Great One got to stay up later than The Pain, how did she feel? Why do you think she felt that way?
- After hearing The Great One's perspective, what do you think The Pain thinks about his sister?
- How many people have a sister or brother that bothers them sometimes? Do you ever bother them? Are there things that would be boring if you didn't have them in your life?
- Why do you think the author wrote this book? Is there a message that you got from it?
- What are some things that The Pain and The Great One could do to get along better in the future? Is there something that you can do to get along better with others?

OTHER RELATED BOOKS

Soupy Saturdays with the Pain and the Great One by Judy Blume

Cool Zone with the Pain and the Great One by Judy Blume

Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day by Judith Viorst