

## Young Hoosier Book Award Novel Resource #2

### Mom for Mayor

#### I. Book Information:

*Author:* Nancy Edwards

*Title:* Mom for Mayor

*Copyright date:* 2006

*Publisher:* Cricket Books



#### II. About the Author:

Mrs. Edwards has been [www.nancyedwardsbooks.com](http://www.nancyedwardsbooks.com) teaching students who are deaf for thirty years at Thomas Edison Elementary. She lives in Port Huron, Michigan with her husband Mark. Together they have two adult children: Steve and Alan.

Mrs. Edwards has written only one other book and fifteen magazine stories appearing in various children's magazines. Along with being a writer, she is a musician who can play five different instruments. She has also won \$32,000 on Who Wants to be a Millionaire.

*Author's webpage address:* <http://nancyedwardsbooks.com>

*Author can be contact via email through her website.*

#### **Author's connections to the book:**

There are several touches from her personal life that Mrs. Edwards included in Mom for Mayor. Eric Clark inherited some traits from Mrs. Edwards's two sons. Eric wraps himself in the phone cord while on the phone just like her son Steve. Eric also built a dam for a science fair project the night before it was due like also like Steve. From her other son, Alan, Mrs. Edwards got the idea for Eric's backpack with an old, squishy lunch bag.

Eric's dad wears flannel shirts with burn holes in them just like Edwards's husband Mark. Eric's dad also had a knack for unique creations in the kitchen and sing silly songs which her husband does as well.

**Awards for Nancy Edwards:**

Mrs. Edwards has won an Educational Press Association of America Award for her story *Hello, Wind*.

**Other book by Nancy Edwards:**

Glenna's Seeds

**III. Annotation:**

Wanting to save "his" park, Eric Clark decides his mom should run for mayor to save it. This book is a "can't miss" with young readers.

**IV. Genre:**

Family fiction is the genre of this novel.

**V. Point of View:**

This novel is written in the first person point of view through the main character Eric Clark.

**VI. Theme:**

The theme of Mom for Mayor is about working together toward a common goal. Eric, along with his parents, works toward getting her elected. This theme also is suggested when Eric's mom on page 85 tells Eric, "If I am elected to city council, I may very well have to work with Roger Bishop. Do you think the city council could get any work done if they spent all their time arguing? Or worse, not even speaking to each other?"

**VII. Conflict:**

In Mom for Mayor Eric, whom is the main character, has the internal conflict of growing up a little.

**VIII. Conflict Resolution:**

At the beginning of the novel Eric is described as imaginative. His homework seems to disappear and projects get forgotten until the night before they are due. By encouraging and supporting his mother's candidacy Eric grows up. At the end of the novel Eric was more organized and his grades were decent. He had grown.

## IX. Characters:

Eric Nathaniel Clark

- Main character
- Fifth grader
- Imaginative
- Narrator

Mrs. Murphy

- Eric's teacher

Jonathon Pierce

- Eric's best friend
- Smart, a brain
- Reads encyclopedias for fun
- Never stops being fair

Caitlin

- Classmate of Eric
- Niece to Roger Bishop, the mayor

Roger Bishop

- Current mayor

Liz Clark

- Eric's mom
- A list maker and planner
- Prepares taxes for a living
- Doesn't believe in accidents

Mr. Clark

- Eric's dad
- Mechanic
- Wears flannel shirts with welding holes
- Make statues out of old car and machine parts
- "Creative" cook
- sings sill songs
- Imaginative

Aunt Debby

- Eric's aunt

Mrs. Pierce

- Eric's best friend's mom
- Got petitions signed on Mrs. Clark's behalf

Jessica

- Classmate of Eric
- Jonathon's partner for social studies project

**X. Setting:**

The setting of the novel takes place in a city in Michigan from March until November. As a reader one assumes the novel is taking place during the present.

**XI. Interest Level and Reading Level**

Interest Level: 6-10

Reading Level: 5.4

**XII. Booktalk:**

"For Sale", the sign reads. What?! How can this happen? Eric Clark wants his park back and decides his mom is the candidate for the job, but does she know it?

**XIII. Discussion Questions:**

*Pre-Reading*

- Looking at the cover what do you predict the story will be about?
- The woman on the cover has a surprised look on her face. What do you think she is surprised about?

*Chapter 1*

- Would you be as upset as Eric if your favorite park was for sale? (page 3)
- What could Eric do to save Lennox Park? (page 5)
- Why does Eric rely on Jon to come up with a solution? (page 6)
- Who are Sherlock Holmes and Watson?

*Chapter 2*

- The chapter is entitled "The Traitor". Who do you think that is?
- Caitlin lists advantages of putting lights in Greenview Park. Does that change your opinion about selling Lennox Park? (page 8)
- What do you think about Eric's ideas to save the park: selling cupcakes, parade or chain himself to a slide? (page 9)
- What do you think Eric wants to talk to his mom about? (page 15)
- What is his good idea?

### *Chapter 3*

- After reading page 20 through the third paragraph, what do you think Eric's mom means by this? What does Eric take it to mean? Was it fair of Eric to talk to his mom about this when he knew she was busy? Should Eric's mom have taken time to listen to him?

### *Chapter 4*

- On page 22, "I turned away and opened a fortune cookie. FUTURE PROJECT BRINGS ADVENTURE. It was a sign!" What does Eric think this is a sign of? What do you think this is a sign of?
- Do you think getting seventy-five signatures will be easy for Eric to achieve?

### *Chapter 5*

- Do you think Jon would be helping Eric if he knew Eric's mom doesn't really want or know about running for city council? (page 27)
- What do you think Jon will do when he finds out the truth about Eric's mom? (page 27)
- On page 31, "It's our custom that candidates come here in person, but it's not a law." Explain what this means.

### *Chapter 6*

- On page 38, "Sometimes great heroes in American history made sacrifices for the good of their country." Name one and explain why.

### *Chapter 7*

- When someone says your full name at home are you in trouble? (page 40)
- Eric used money he was saving for rollerblades to purchase signs for his mom. What does this say about Eric? (page 42)

### *Chapter 8*

- Why doesn't Eric listen to his mom about NOT running for city council?

### *Chapter 9*

- After reading through the ninth paragraph on page 54, what do you think Eric's mom is going to do about running for city council?

### *Chapter 10*

- Do you think Eric is surprised about how much his mom has thought about the park in such a short time? (page 64)

### *Chapter 11*

- Eric's speech went pretty well. Were you surprised he didn't ask Jon for his help? (page 70)
- Eric's mom's campaign slogan, "Our kids live here, too," do you think she already had this planned or did she come up with it after Eric's speech? Explain. (page 71)

### *Chapter 12*

- On page 77, third paragraph: "I'm going to chose partners for one last social studies project." Who do you think Eric gets paired up with?

### *Chapter 13*

- On page 85, third paragraph, do you agree with what Eric's mom said?
- Do you think Eric was too hard on Roger Bishop thinking of him as "BISHOP: Big Industrialist Steals Harmless Orphan's Pillow?" (page 87)
- Do you think Eric's opinion of Roger Bishop change after the social studies project with Caitlin? (page 90)

### *Chapter 14*

- After reading the first paragraph in the chapter why is Jonathon being rude to Eric?
- After reading the fifth paragraph on page 95 what do you think Eric's dad was going to say? "Yes, and your mom and I...?"
- What do you think about the park being named Roger Bishop Park? (page 103)
- Do you think that was voted on by the council?

### *Chapter 15*

- Do you think Eric's idea of getting a picture of the real Roger Bishop is a good idea? Would Eric's mom approve? (page 109)
- What are Eric's parents going to say when they find out the reason Eric was up in the tree? (page 110)

### *Chapter 16*

- After reading the second paragraph on page 114 do you think “parents enjoy hearing their kids admit they made a mistake?”

*Chapter 17*

- Do you think Eric's mom will be elected to the city council or for mayor?

*Chapter 18*

- How will Eric's parents react when Eric tells them about his zero in English? (page 126)

*Chapter 19*

- How has Eric grown throughout this book?
- Would you want to run for a political office?

Post Reading

- Does the scene from the cover happen in the book?
- What did you think of the novel? What did you like? What did you dislike?
- Why do you think Eric's dad has started singing silly songs again?

**XIV. Language**

- contagious (page 3) - having a disease that can easily be spread from person to person
- petitions (page 25) - written requests to made to an official needing people's signature to show a sign of support
- harebrained (page 42) - foolish
- democracy (page 46) - a government by the people
- cronies (page 65) - very close friends for a long time

**XV. Novel Content Standards**

***Grade 3:***

English/Language Arts

Standard 1: 3.1.1, 3.1.2, 3.1.3, 3.1.4, 3.1.6, 3.1.7, 3.1.8

Standard 3: 3.3.3, 3.3.4, 3.3.6, 3.3.8

Social Studies

Standard 2: 3.2.2, 3.2.3, 3.2.5, 3.2.6

Standard 4: 3.4.8

***Grade 4:***

English/Language Arts

Standard 1: 4.1.1, 4.1.2, 4.1.3, 4.1.6, 4.1.7

Standard 3: 4.3.2, 4.3.3, 4.3.6  
Social Studies  
Standard 2: 4.2.4, 4.2.5, 4.2.6

***Grade 5:***

English/Language Arts

Standard 1: 5.1.1, 5.1.2, 5.1.6

Standard 3: 5.3.2, 5.3.3, 5.3.4, 5.3.8

Social Studies

Standard 2: 5.2.6, 5.2.9

**XVI: Anticipation Statements:**

- It is good to have an imagination.
- You should wait for a good time to tell your parents bad news.
- It is okay to let someone think something when you know it's not correct.
- It is okay to make plans for someone with their knowledge.
- When you are angry it is okay to react right away.

**XVII: Read Aloud Passages**

*Passage #1:* Page 1, first and second paragraphs.

I chose this passage it makes you wonder what he is running from and if he is in trouble. It really draws the reader into the beginning of the book.

*Passage #2:* Page 40 starting with "I heard the door open and then slam shut" until "I felt the blood drain out of my face and then rush back to my cheeks like some wild blood roller coaster."

Eric had gotten petitions for his mom to run for city council and ordered sign for her campaign; however, she had no clue she was running.

I chose this passage because it is just so descriptive. It made me think of times as a child I have this same exact feeling.

Passage #3: Page 91, first two sentences:

"The last few days of school melted away like a Popsicle on a hot sidewalk. My life was kind of mess like that, too."

I chose this passage because it brings an image to your mind while reading it.

Eric had drawn an eye patch and mustache on a picture of Roger Bishop, he completed his social studies project with Caitlyn and he was on the outs with Jonathon.

**XVIII: If you like this book, you'll love these:**

Arnold for President by Craig Bartlett

Rosie Swanson: Fourth-Grade Geek for President by Barbara Park

Dinah for President by Claudia Mills

Heads, I Win by Patricia Hermes

Glenna's Seeds by Nancy Edwards

**XIV: Across Curriculum Connections**

*Connection #1: Graphing*

Given our current presidential elections and the election of Eric's mom let's look and see who would win our presidential votes as a school.

Pair up students to visit each classroom in the school and have them ask the class whom they would vote for: O'Bama, McCain or other. Each pair records the votes and returns to your room. As a class compile the entire data for the school. In the same pairs have them create a bar graph, pie chart and line graph for the data collected. Also have them calculate the mean, median and mode.

**Grade 3**

*Math*

Standard 1: 3.1.1, 3.1.5

Standard 2: 3.2.1

## **Grade 4**

### *Math*

- Standard 1: 4.1.1, 4.1.9
- Standard 6: 4.6.1, 4.6.2, 4.6.3
- Standard 7: 4.7.4

## **Grade 5**

### *Math*

- Standard 6: 5.6.1, 5.6.2 5.6.4

### *Connection #2: Science*

In the novel Eric and Jonathon celebrate the Fourth of July on the first night of summer vacation. "We pour pixie sticks into bottles of Mountain Dew."

Have students in groups for four recreate Eric and Josh's celebration. Having each groups us a different amount of pixie stick. Have them form a hypothesis, record their steps of set up and record their observations. Discuss as a class the different findings.

### *Grade 3:*

#### *Science*

- Standard 1: 3.1.1, 3.1.3, 3.1.4, 3.1.5
- Standard 2: 3.2.2, 3.2.6, 3.2.7

### *Grade 4:*

#### *Science*

- Standard 1: 4.1.2, 4.1.3
- Standard 2: 4.2.5

### *Grade 5:*

#### *Science*

- Standard 1: 5.1.1
- Standard 2: 5.2.4

Have students individually select a cake recipe either from home or online. Ask them to double or triple the recipe. Ask them to halve the recipe. This will provide some good fraction practice.

**XV: Resources:**

Nobleman, Tyler. Election Day. Minneapolis: Compass Point Books, 2005.

This twenty-four page book is written for a younger audience explaining the history, purpose and importance of Election Day.

Murphy, Patricia J. Voting and Elections. Minneapolis: Compass Point Books, 2002.

This thirty-two page book covers the different ways to vote and the importance of voting.

Ring Susan. Election Connection: The Official Nick Guide to Electing the President. San Francisco: Chronicle Books, 2004.

This book is about a presidential election, the election budget, campaigning and travel. It is written in affiliation with Nickelodeon.

Town of Fishers Official Government Website. 2008. Town of Fishers. 20 June 2008. <http://www.fishers.in.us>.

This source is a website for the Town of Fishers. It provides contact information for the town officials and provides good information about the town government.

**XVI: Book Activities:**

**Activity #1**

**Persuasive Writing**

*A book related activity for*

Mom for Mayor by Peg Nancy Edwards

***Objective:***

By going through the writing process students will write a persuasive letter to someone of their choosing.

***Indiana Academic Standards:***

*Grade 3*

English/Language Arts

Standard 4: 3.4.3, 3.4.9, 3.4.4, 3.4.5, 3.4.6, 3.4.7, 3.4.8

Standard 5: 3.5.6, 3.5.3, 3.5.5

Standard 6: 3.3.1, 3.6.2, 3.6.3, 3.6.4, 3.6.5, 3.6.6, 3.6.7, 3.6.8

*Grade 4*

English/Language Arts

Standard 4: 4.4.3, 4.4.9, 4.4.10, 4.4.11, 4.4.12

Standard 5: 4.5.5, 4.5.6

Standard 6: 4.6.1, 4.6.2, 4.6.3, 4.6.4, 4.6.5, 4.6.7, 4.6.8

*Grade 5*

English/Language Arts

Standard 4: 5.4.3, 5.4.11, 5.4.6, 5.4.7, 5.4.8, 5.4.9, 5.4.10

Standard 5: 5.5.4, 5.5.5,

Standard 6: 5.6.1, 5.6.2, 5.6.8, 5.6.3, 5.6.4, 5.6.5, 5.6.7

***Time Needed:***

- One class period a day for a week.

***Materials Needed:***

- Writing journal
- Pencil and/or pen
- Computer

***Procedure:***

In Chapter 8 Eric writes a persuasive letter to the editor about why he feels the city shouldn't sell Lennox Field. Choose an issue you feel strongly about and write a persuasive letter to the appropriate person as we go through the writing process.

Ideas include:

- A school issue written to the principal or school newspaper.
- A town issue written to the town council.
- A city issue written to the mayor or newspaper.
- A world issue written to the president, member of legislature or newspaper.

Review good characteristics for persuasive writing.

<http://www.learner.org/channel/workshops/hswriting/support/activityPlanEffPursWrit.pdf>

- Authoritative voice - forceful word choices
- Acknowledging the opposing view
- Providing specific examples and supporting details
- Citing respectable sources from a wide range of fields
- Using recent and relevant data

Have them start a rough draft. Don't emphasize grammar or punctuations, just thoughts. Have them write in their journals on every other line. When they are finished have them go back and correct grammar and punctuation on their own.

Before they peer edit students should write a "clean copy" of their work. Pair finished students up for peer editing.

Next have them get with your for a teacher edit. Make any corrections or suggestions during a one-on-one meeting.

Lastly, have them type their final copy for their writing portfolio and sending to the appropriate person.

### **Assessment:**

Assess writing for grammar, punctuation, ideas, word usage and peer editing.

## Activity #2

### Book Illustration

*A book related activity for*  
Mom for Mayor by Nancy Edwards

#### ***Objective:***

Students will use their artistic talents to create an illustration for Mom for Mayor.

#### ***Indiana Academic Standards:***

This activity doesn't apply to any Math, Science or Language Arts standards; however, I am sure that it covers a topic in Art. You could coordinate this activity with the art teacher in your school when art mediums are covered in class.

#### ***Time:***

- Two class periods

#### ***Materials:***

- Paper
- Pens, pencils, paint

#### ***Procedure:***

This activity is for students to complete individually.

In Mom for Mayor Michael Chesworth includes several illustrations depicting several scenes from the novel. Discuss what types of illustrations are in the novel. Also discuss the other types of mediums that can be used in illustrations.

Have students create an illustration not already included in the novel using a different form of medium that Michael Chesworth used in the novel.

Source for art mediums:

<http://www.lesliepreddy.com/YHBA/Day1/Picture%20Book%20Art%20Medium%20glossary.pdf>

## **XVII: Bibliography**

Mom for Mayor by Nancy Edwards

<http://www.nancyedwardsbooks.com>

<http://ideanet.doe/state.in.us/standards>

<http://www.help.lib.in.us>

<http://www.fishers.in.us>

<http://www.lesliepreddy.com/YHBA/Day1/Picture%20Book%20Art%20Medium%20glossary.pdf>

<http://www.learner.org/channel/workshops/hswriting/support/activityPlanEffPursWrit.pdf>