

Lilly's Big Day
Written and Illustrated by Kevin Henkes
Greenwillow Books
2006

About the Author and Illustrator

Kevin Henkes has been drawing pictures from a very young age, and has been consistently encouraged by his parents and teachers along the way to his success. He became an author/illustrator at age 19. His very first book was All Alone, published in 1981. Since then he has continued to experiment with different art mediums while writing and illustrating many picture books a few novels. He currently lives with his wife, son, and daughter. In this book, Henkes uses marker and colored pencils to draw his illustrations.

No contact information was provided.



Other Books by Author

Chrysanthemum

Kitten's First Full Moon

Julius, the Baby of the World

Olive's Ocean

Lilly's Purple Plastic Purse

A Good Day

Chester's Way

A Weekend with Wendell

Sheila Rae, the Brave

Jessica

Annotation

What a delightful book for young children, particularly little girls who have all probably dreamed of being the flower girl in someone's wedding. Henkes does a great job writing this sweet little story about a young female mouse who yearns to be her teacher's flower girl, but quickly discovers that he has already filled the role. She tries everything in her power to prove that she would be the better choice, but all she gets is the assistant

position. But don't worry. Henkes finds a way to fulfill all the readers' hopes that Lilly's dream will somehow come true. This is another fine story by Henkes, as he once again finds a way to capture the innocence of young children and also brings the characters to life with his realistic pictures throughout.

Genre

Picture storybook

Setting

This story takes place at Lilly's school and home and at the place of the wedding. It happens during the school year.

Theme

Sometimes things work out exactly how they are supposed to.

Conflict

Internal Conflict-Lilly wants to be the flower girl in her teacher's upcoming wedding, but her teacher already has his niece doing that job. She struggles with wanting to be the flower girl but knowing she cannot.

Conflict Resolution

At the wedding, Ginger gets stage fright and Lilly ends up saving the wedding by carrying her down the aisle to perform her flower girl duties.

Characters

Lilly, Mr. Slinger, Mrs. Shotwell, Lilly's parents, Ginger

Interest Level: ages 4-8

Reading Level: 3.6

Booktalk

What a fun, fun book to read! I guarantee by the time you are finished with this one, you will be running out to find the other two books about Lilly. She is an absolute cutie in this story where she wants to be the center of attention. You see, Lilly's teacher, Mr. Slinger, is getting married, and Lilly wants to be the flower girl REALLY bad. Unfortunately, Mr. Slinger already has someone else picked out for the job. But when the big day finally comes, Lilly finds herself in a rare situation. What on earth will Lilly have to do? Read and find out!

Language

appropriate (pg. 2)-correct or proper for a certain occasion

diva (pg. 8)-a very important woman singer

portrait (pg. 9)-a painting or photograph

glamorous (pg. 13)-dressed up to be very stylish or important

Indiana Academic Standards

English/LA: K.1.1, K.1.22, K.2.1, K.2.2, K.3.1, 1.1.12, 1.1.15, 1.2.1, 1.2.5, 1.3.3, 1.3.4, 2.1.3, 2.1.6, 2.1.8, 2.2.6, 2.3.5, 2.3.6, 2.3.7, 3.1.2, 3.1.3, 3.2.2, 3.2.3, 3.3.3, 3.3.8

Science: 1.4.1

Social Studies: 1.2.4, 1.2.5

Anticipation Statements

	Agree/Disagree	Page Number	Were you right?	Reflect
1. A child's birthday is the best day of his or her year.				
2. It's okay to not listen to your parents.				
3. If you wish hard enough for something, it will come true.				
4. A teacher should pick a student to be a flower girl in his or her wedding.				
5. A flower girl assistant is a very important job.				
6. If you cry, you might get your way.				

“If you like Lilly’s Big Day, you’ll love...”

Lilly’s Purple Plastic Purse by Kevin Henkes

Lilly’s Chocolate Heart by Kevin Henkes

Fancy Nancy by Jane O’Connor

Pinkalicious by Victoria Kann

Clementine by Sara Pennypacker

Discussion Questions

Pre-reading

- (cover) Why do you think Lilly is wearing a crown on her head?
- What do you think the big day is that the author is talking about?
- (Cover) Why do you think the illustrator put those decorative lanterns on the front cover?

During reading

- (page 1) Why do you think the boy in this picture is saying, “yuck”?
- (pages 4-5) Why do you suppose Lilly just assumes she will be the flower girl?

- (page 21) What do think is wrong with Ginger? What will Lilly do?

Post-reading

- Have any of you ever been a flower girl? How about ring bearer? How did it make you feel?
- Do you think Lilly was being rude by continually asking her teacher if she could be the flower girl?

Across the Curriculum Connections

- Because of the flower girl tradition in this story, you could spend some time talking about different cultures and how they all have their own traditions.

No supplies needed

Standards

Social Studies: K.1.1, K.3.6, 2.1.4

- Because of the descriptive way in which the author describes or portrays Lilly, it would neat to have students write a brief description of Lilly describing who they think she is. Students should be encouraged to use lots of creative adjectives that are fitting to Lilly in this story.

Supplies: paper, pencils, thesauruses

Standards

English/LA: K.4.3, K.5.1, 1.5.4, 2.4.3, 3.5.2, 3.5.4, 3.6.5

Resources

Kevin Henkes' website games and activities has a few fun follow-up games and activities for students to do after reading or listening to Lilly's Big Day.

<http://www.kevinhenkes.com/meet/fun.asp>

This is a short video clip of a flower girl doing her job, in case some students are not sure what a flower girl is or does in a wedding.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jm99EIyq-oo&NR=1>

Book Activity

Activity One

After reading Lilly's Big Day, read the two other books about Lilly, Lilly's Chocolate Heart and Lilly's Purple Plastic Purse. Then have students brainstorm alone or in a small group (their choice) about a idea for a fourth story about Lilly. Tell them this story can be about anything they want. The only requirements are that students incorporate Lilly's qualities that Kevin Henkes has already established, some of the same characters, and use lots of creativity and fun pictures that keep Lilly and the other characters looking the same. Give students about 3-5 days of in-class time to work on the story and illustrations. Then spend 2-3 days typing and putting the stories together. After all books have been completed, students can share their books with the class. Then they can take them home to share with their own families. If students choose to work in a group, the teacher can make color copies of the books so that each student will have one to take home.

Standards

English/LA: K.4.1, K.4.2, K.4.3, 1.4.1, 1.5.1, 2.4.3, 2.5.1, 2.5.5, 2.7.13, 3.4.5, 3.5.1, 3.5.4,
3.7.12

Bibliography

Kevin Henkes' website

<http://www.kevinhenkes.com>

Reading Level

<http://www.liveoakmedia.com/productdetails.cfm?PC=1638>

Amazon Resources

<http://www.liveoakmedia.com/productdetails.cfm?PC=1638>