

# Lilly's Big Day

# Kevin Henkes



Publisher  
Greenwillow  
Books;

An Imprint of HarperCollins  
Publishers  
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Jenn Duncan

Owner of Stepping Stones Child Development Center, Inc.

[steppingstonescdcinc@yahoo.com](mailto:steppingstonescdcinc@yahoo.com)



**Author & Illustrator's name:** Kevin Henkes

**Title:** Lilly's Big Day

**Copyright date:** 2006

**Publisher:** Greenwillow Books; An Imprint of HarperCollins Publishers

**About the Author:**

He began painting and drawing very early in life. His parents and teachers encouraged him to continue, because he was "very good!" He worked from a card table in his parents house as he grew. At age 19 he decided to travel to New York to find a publisher. He was blessed with luck and had his first book, All Alone, published in 1981. He now resides in Wisconsin, with his wife, son and daughter and has his own studio inside his home! He never thought he'd be lucky enough to be a real author and illustrator! "I wouldn't trade it for anything!"

Kevin Henkes states, "I also loved books, and the ones I was lucky enough to own were reread, looked at over and over, and regarded with great respect. To me great respect meant that I took them everywhere, and the ones I still own prove it. They're brimming with all the telltale signs of true love: dog-eared pages, fingerprints on my favorite illustrations, my high crayon lettering, and the faint smell of stale peanut butter on the bindings."

**Official webpage:** <http://www.kevinhenkes.com/>

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[steppingstonescdcinc@yahoo.com](mailto:steppingstonescdcinc@yahoo.com)

**Email and Office address:**

HarperCollins Children's Books  
Kevin Henkes  
c/o HarperCollins Children's Books  
10 East Fifty-third Street  
New York, NY 10022

[www.kidsread.com/authors/harpercollins.asp](http://www.kidsread.com/authors/harpercollins.asp)

**Other books written and illustrated by the author:**

In the picture book category, he has written many "mouse" books including: Julius, The Baby of the World, Chrysanthemum, Shelia Rae, the Brave, Owen, a 1994 Caldecott Honor Book, and many more.

A complete collection of Henkes' work is linked below;

[http://www.kevinhenkes.com/books/mouse.asp#audio\\_cd](http://www.kevinhenkes.com/books/mouse.asp#audio_cd)



**Annotation & illustrations:**

Kevin Henkes well loved mouse stories just got a bit cute. In Lilly's Big Day, Lilly the mouse is told that her favorite teacher is getting married! She immediately begins planning her walk down the aisle as his flower girl, only to realize that his niece, Ginger will be doing the honors. Lilly is then offered the role of the assistant to the flower girl. She continues to plan her big day as the assistant as the wedding approaches. The big day arrives and Lilly assists Ginger down the aisle with much fanfare. Henkes does a wonderful job capturing the emotion and excitement of the story through his pictures.

**Genre:** Friendship Fiction

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**Point of view:** Third person

**Theme:** Lilly wants to be the flower girl for her teacher's upcoming wedding.

I believe the title implies that Lilly expects her teacher's wedding to actually be her big day! It turns out that it is a big day for each involved!

**Conflict:** Internal conflict; Lilly wants to be the flower girl and feels disappointed when not chosen.

**Conflict Resolution:** Lilly is able to be a part of her teacher's big day in an unexpected way.

### **Characters**

1. Lilly
2. Mr. Slinger; Lilly's teacher
3. Ms. Shotwell; Mr. Slinger's new wife
4. Ginger; Mr. Slinger's niece

**Setting:** Various places, including Lilly's home, classroom and Mr. Slinger's wedding

**Interest level:** Ages 3 through 10

**Reading level :** 4 years old (read aloud) thru 8 years old (read alone)

### **Booktalk:**

Mr. Slinger, Lilly's favorite teacher, has a big announcement...he's getting married! Who will become his flower girl? Will Lilly's dream to walk down the aisle dancing among petals come true? Is Lilly ready for such a big responsibility? Will Mr. Slinger have just one flower girl? The countdown to Mr. Slinger's wedding has begun, but still no flower girl has been chosen. How will Lilly make the biggest day of Mr. Slinger's life perfect?

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## **Discussion questions:**

Pre reading:

1. Has anyone ever been to a wedding?
2. What is a flower girl?
3. Why do you think this is Lilly's big day?

During reading:

1. What do you think Mr. Slinger will announce?
2. How does Lilly feel about his announcement?
3. Who does Mr. Slinger choose to be his flower girl?
4. Why was Lilly excited?
5. When & how does Lilly make Mr. Slinger's wedding day perfect?

Post reading:

1. How did Lilly help Ginger with the flower girl duties?
2. Why was Lilly so exhausted at the wedding reception?
3. What did Mr. Slinger think of Lilly's actions during the wedding?

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**Language:**

<b>Word</b>	<b>Definition</b>	<b>Page Number</b>
Announced	Said to the class	1
Appropriate	The right thing	2
Flower Girl	A young girl who walks down the wedding aisle throwing flower petals before the bride walks down	2
Self-portrait	A picture of yourself	9
Unfortunately	Too bad	10
Invited	Welcome to come to the event	10
Reception	A party after the wedding	10
Assistant	Helper to another person	11
Crooked	Not straight	12
Properly	The right way	12
Remind	Help to remember	12
Corsage	A flower worn at a special event	12
Responsibility	Something important to be in charge of	14
Bouquet	A group of flowers	15
Ceremony	A special event like a wedding	17
Exhausted	Very tired	21

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**ISA met by Content:**

<b>Kindergarten</b>	<b>First Grade</b>	<b>Second Grade</b>	<b>Third Grade</b>
K.1.5, K.1.6, K.1.7, K.1.11, K.1.22, K.3.2	1.1.4, 1.1.5, 1.1.7, 1.1.11, 1.4.3, 1.4.4, 1.6.2	2.2.1, 2.1.2, 2.1.3, 2.1.5, 2.1.6, 2.1.8, 2.1.11, 2.7.1, 2.6.4, 2.6.5, 2.6.8	3.1.1, 3.1.2, 3.1.3, 3.1.4, 3.1.6, 3.3.4, 3.7.5, 3.7.6, 3.7.7, 3.7.13

**Anticipation statements:**

**Directions: Answer T for true and F for false to the following statements. Please answer the statements twice. Please answer once before you read, Lilly’s Big Day and again afterwards.**

<b>Statement</b>	<b>Pre Reading Answer</b>	<b>Post Reading Answer</b>
<b>It is exciting to get married</b>		
<b>Being in a wedding is an important job</b>		
<b>Lilly is asked to be Mr. Slinger’s flower girl</b>		
<b>Ginger is afraid to walk down the aisle alone</b>		

**Read alike:** (Please see attached publisher document 1 )

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**Subject area connections:**

**Language Arts & Creative Dramatics:**

*Materials: Dress up clothes, pencil, paper and creativity*

1. Students are to choose their favorite “scene” from Lilly’s big day, dress up in costume (K) or rewrite the skit with a different ending (1-3) for a Reader’s Theater and perform for their class.

**Standards met by the activity above:**

<b>Kindergarten</b>	<b>First Grade</b>	<b>Second Grade</b>	<b>Third Grade</b>
K.4.3, K.4.4, K.4.5, K.4.6, K.4.7, K.6.2	1.3.1, 1.3.3, 1.3.5, 1.4.1, 1.4.3, 1.5.2,	2.4.1, 2.4.2, 2.4.4, 2.4.6, 2.5.6, 2.5.8	3.4.1, 3.4.2, 3.4.3, 3.4.6, 3.4.8, 3.5.5,

**Math:**

*Materials: DVD, pencil, paper*

2. Assignment: Students will watch a Henke video, of a different story and create a Venn diagram comparing and contrasting the two main characters in his stories.

**Standards met by the activity above:**

<b>Kindergarten</b>	<b>First Grade</b>	<b>Second Grade</b>	<b>Third Grade</b>
K.3.6, K.3.7	1.2.1, 1.2.2, 1.2.4	2.2.1, 2.2.2, 2.2.3	3.2.1, 3.2.2, 3.2.3

**Resources:**

1. The Internet School Media Center’s Kevin Henkes resource page provides biographical information about the author, lesson plans, a bibliography, and resources for several of Henkes’ books including: Lilly’s Purple Plastic Purse and Chrysanthemum.  
<http://falcon.jmu.edu/~ramseyil/henkes.htm>
2. BookMuse.com provides discussion questions for Chrysanthemum. These questions would be useful as an after-reading activity.  
[www.bookmuse.com/pages/kids/musenotes/nskidsnotes.asp?group=k2&genre=fantasy&book=522](http://www.bookmuse.com/pages/kids/musenotes/nskidsnotes.asp?group=k2&genre=fantasy&book=522)

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3. A plethora of lesson ideas for Chrysanthemum from the teachers.net Four Blocks ring can be found at this site.  
<http://teachers.net/lessons/posts/2344.html>
4. Fun extension activities for books by Kevin Henke are presented by the National Center for Illustrated Children's Literature at this site. There is an example of cubism in this story. Kevin Henkes created a version of Pablo Picasso's Demoiselles d'Avignon. Students are encouraged to look for the example and to try some cubism of their own. Depending on your student population, students might also want to see the picture itself at: <http://www.worldartsales.net/picasso/pc12.htm> or for information about cubism see: <http://www.artlex.com/ArtLex/c/cubism.html>.

### **Book activities:**

1. Fun activities to go along with Lilly's Big Day, including a quiz students can take that assesses how well they comprehended the book can be found at this site.  
<http://familyeducation.com/topic/front/0,1156,22-17109,00.html>
2. Fun extension activities for Lilly's Big Day are presented by the National Center for Illustrated Children's Literature at this site. Since Lilly loves disguises, it is suggested that students create their own disguises. After making a disguise, students could put it on and write a short story or description of what they would do while wearing a disguise. Or, they could make a mask like their favorite Henkes' character and write a story pretending to be that character.  
<http://www.nccil.org/children/henkes.html>

**Art Medium used:** Watercolor paints and a black pen were used to create the illustrations.

1. The students could paint on canvas with watercolors to get a feel of the medium.
  - a. After the paints are dry, I would have the students trace their pictures with black pen as did Henke
2. I think this medium was chosen to reflect the light mood of the book.

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## **Bibliography:**

- To download and print color copies of the covers of his “mouse” books, go to [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com)
- To find pictures of his characters and information about the author, go to [www.kevinhenkes.com](http://www.kevinhenkes.com)
- A list of “mouse” books by Kevin Henkes can be found at this site. <http://www.kevinhenkes.com/books/mouse.asp>
- The Internet School Media Center’s Kevin Henkes resource page provides biographical information about the author, lesson plans, a bibliography, and resources for several of Henkes’ books including: Lilly’s Purple Plastic Purse, Chrysanthemum, and more. <http://falcon.jmu.edu/~ramseyil/henkes.htm>
- Harper Collins Children’s Books publishes many of Kevin Henkes’ books. The official Harper Collins Children’s Books website has a link called HarperChildrens.com. This site contains information about the author, story summaries, information about purchasing the book, chapter excerpts, special fun features/activities, and a link to the author’s website. Many free time activities can be found at this site. <http://www.harperchildrens.com/hch/author/author/henkes/>
- Carol Hurst’s Children’s Literature Site’s biography page for Kevin Henkes provides background information about his books as well as summaries of some of his work. <http://www.carolhurst.com/authors/khenkes.html>

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