

Books for Young Learners Teacher Resource

Book Notes



New Beginnings

Author Tracy Monaghan

Illustrator Deborah White

12 pages ■ 277 words

Fountas and Pinnell Level J

Intervention Level 17



New Beginnings

SYNOPSIS

**This book deals with a sensitive theme. Some caution should be used when using this text with students.*

WHAT THE BOOK OFFERS

- Realistic fiction
- Third person, past tense
- Inferential reading
- Illustrations convey emotions /mood
- Layers of meaning
- Problem/solution structure
- Gathering information and making inferences from text
- Varied text placement
- Author's purpose
- Sensitive theme
- Sequence of events

POSSIBLE SKILLS EMPHASIS

- Inferential reading – reasons for character's actions/emotions
 - Understanding how characters change over time
 - Understanding problem/solution structure of narrative text
 - Comparing/contrasting with own experience
 - Using text and illustrations to make inferences
- changes in a community and the environment.
Use the cover and title page to predict what the book will be about.

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New Beginnings (continued)

INTRODUCING THE BOOK

Cover/Title page: *What do you think the title “New Beginnings” means? How do the author and illustrator help you in thinking about new beginnings? Does the title page help us gather any more information?*

What questions do you have? List student’s questions on chart paper or artist pad to record the students’ thinking.

Read pages 2 and 3: *What has the author revealed to you? What do you now know about Anna? Her feelings? How did the author/illustrator tell you? Have any of our previous questions been answered? What new questions do you have?*

Read pages 4 and 5: *What has changed? What could happen now to Anna? Chart students’ responses.*

Read pages 6 and 7: *What information has the author given you? What do you now know about Anna? Refer back to the questions previously charted. Have we answered any questions or have we more to be answered by the author? What could Anna’s father do to help with their loss?*

Read pages 8 through 12: *How have Anna and her father changed? What questions did the author answer for us? Why did the author title this story “New Beginnings?”*

FOLLOWING THE READING

- Compare/Contrast with students’ own experiences/activities done with their mothers to experiences/activities done with their fathers.
- Discuss other ways students have experienced a new beginning in their lives and how they grew and changed because of it.
- Discuss or write about a personal loss – someone or something (divorce, loss of a grandparent, pet) what was their personal experience or their new beginning.

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New Beginnings (continued)

Additional Comprehension Prompts For Oral or Written Use Before, During, and After Reading	
FINISH THIS THOUGHT	<i>This story is about . . . I feel . . . for the girl and her Dad because . . .</i>
USE YOUR MEMORY	<i>How did Anna like to be tucked into bed? Find two places in the story that tell you. What did Anna's Dad teach her to do? How did that make Anna feel?</i>
WHAT'S YOUR OPINION?	<i>Why do you think Anna slept with a picture of her and her Mom? How do you think you would feel if you were Anna? Why do you think the title of this book is, New Beginnings? Do you think that's a good title or not? Why?</i>
BE CREATIVE	<i>Pretend that Anna is your real friend. Write a letter to Anna telling her things that will help her feel better after losing her Mom to a bad illness. Tell her about fun things you and she could do together in the summer. Tell her why she is your friend. Writing a letter to a friend who is sad is a very kind thing to do.</i>
VOCABULARY AGENT	<i>Compound words are two words put together to make a new word. Find all the compound words in this story and then write each one in a sentence. For example: wildflowers: I like to pick wildflowers because they are beautiful.</i>

Book Note by Maureen Slammer

Additional Comprehension Prompts by Dr. Connie Hebert

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