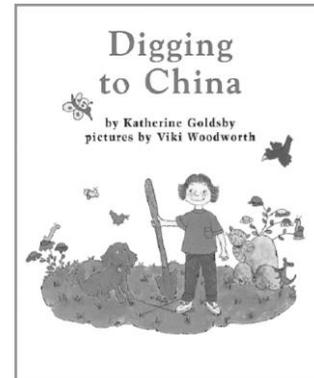


## Books for Young Learners Teacher Resource

## Book Notes

**Digging to China**

Author Katherine Goldsby  
 Illustrator Viki Woodworth  
 12 pages ■ 108 words  
 Fountas and Pinnell Level H  
 Reading Recovery Level 14



Digging to China

**SYNOPSIS**

A child takes the phrase “digging to China” literally.

**WHAT THE BOOK OFFERS**

- Fiction narrative fantasy
- First person
- Past tense
- Varied layout
- Dialogue across two pages
- Illustrations portray the imaginative perspective of the text
- Contractions—“you’ll”
- Ellipsis introduces story climax

**POSSIBLE SKILLS EMPHASIS**

- Attending to letter and word detail to maintain consistency
- Coping with past tense with dialogue referring to the future
- Reading beyond the obvious
- Finding layers of meaning
- Summarizing
- Understanding the role of the illustrations in showing the possible outcome imaginatively

**INTRODUCING THE BOOK**

- Many children will be unfamiliar with the phrase “digging to China,” so the introductory discussion could include the fact that it is a saying, with students suggesting the contexts in which it might be used.

*Think how far China is from this country. It is too far for anyone to dig from one to the other. So if the story says she is trying to do that, what kind of story might it be?*

## Books for Young Learners Teacher Resource

# Book Notes



### Digging to China (continued)

#### FOCUS OF INSTRUCTION

- It will be important that the children realize the imaginative element in the text before the reading gets under way.

Page 3: *What confirms for you that this is not a true story?*

*What might the girl have been thinking as she was digging?*

Page 4: *Was the mother really worried about the jeans getting dirty?*

*What was she really telling the child?*

*Why didn't anybody want her to keep digging?*

Page 6: *Why did the friend suggest she should try to dig to India?*

Page 7: *What have you noticed about what the illustrations show?*

Page 11: *I wonder what the ellipsis is telling us to think about. Do you think it is something else that the sister wants or...?*

*What did the illustrations show?*

#### FOLLOWING THE READING

*What was the story really about? How could you tell the story in a few sentences?*

*Who was the most believable character? Why?*

- Work together to compose a fantasy story based on a common saying.

## Books for Young Learners Teacher Resource

## Book Notes



## Digging to China (continued)

Additional Comprehension Prompts For Oral or Written Use Before, During, and After Reading	
<b>FINISH THIS THOUGHT</b>	<i>If I kept digging a hole in my backyard, I would . . . The girl stopped digging her hole because . . .</i>
<b>USE YOUR MEMORY</b>	<i>Why did the girl's Mom tell the girl to stop digging? Why did the girl's friend think India was a better place to dig to? What did the girl's brother tell her? Look on page 8 and see if you were right. How many miles away is China from the United States? If you don't remember, check the inside back cover to find out. Wow!</i>
<b>WHAT'S YOUR OPINION?</b>	<i>Why do you think the girl wanted to dig a hole to China? Would you like to go to China? Why or why not? Who do you think was the cleverest character in this story? Why?</i>
<b>BE CREATIVE</b>	<i>Pretend you were going to dig a very deep hole to another country. Where would you dig to? Why? What do you think would happen when you climbed out of the hole and into that country? Where would you sleep? What would you have to take with you before you climbed through your hole? Write about your adventure into a deep hole to a new land.</i>
<b>VOCABULARY AGENT</b>	<i>Add an 'ed' to the following words to make a new word. Then write each new word in a sentence. *want *bump *stay *fill *walk *smile</i>

Book Note by Margaret E. Mooney

Additional Comprehension Prompts by Dr. Connie Hebert

© 2016 by Richard C. Owen Publishers, Inc./www.RCOwen.com