

Emma Dilemma: Big Sister Poems

AUTHOR: Kristine O'Connell George

ILLUSTRATOR: Nancy Carpenter

PUBLISHER: Clarion Books

COPYRIGHT DATE: 2011

ART MEDIUM: pen, ink, and digital media

GENRE: Poetry

LIFE SKILLS: caring, patience, friendship, responsibility

SYNOPSIS: Jessica tries to be a good big sister, but sometimes it is hard with a little sister like Emma. She embarrasses her at her soccer game, fills her shoes with rocks, cheats at games, and "decorates" her bedroom with yarn. Through all the ups and downs that sisterhood brings, Jessica loves Emma.

BOOKTALK: Sisters are best friends. Sisters always get along. Sisters share things. Sisters always love each other. Think again! If you have a brother or sister, you will relate to *Emma Dilemma: Big Sister Poems* by Kristine O'Connell George. It is a funny, sweet book of poetry about the trials and tribulations shared between two sisters.

AUTHOR:

Kristine O'Connell George

She was born in Denver, Colorado and now lives in the mountains of Southern California. She is a former student of Myra Cohn Livingston. George has taught poetry classes herself for UCLA and also served as a poetry consultant for PBS Storytime. Her first published book was *The Great Frog Race* in 1997. Her hobbies include tennis, golf, hiking, and photography.

Other books written by the author:

Book!

Fold Me a Poem

The Great Frog Race

Hummingbird Nest: A Journal of Poems

Little Dog and Duncan

Little Dog Poems

Old Elm Speaks: Tree Poems

One Mitten

Swimming Upstream: Middle School Poems

Toasting Marshmallows: Camping Poems

Up!

ILLUSTRATOR:**Nancy Carpenter**

She lives in Brooklyn, New York with her husband and two children. Having worked as a graphic reporter for a major news service, her first illustrations appeared in the New York Times. In addition to illustrating many children's books, she has also illustrated greeting cards.

Other books illustrated by the illustrator:

Abe Lincoln: The Boy who Loved Books

Apples to Oregon

Baby Radar

Brooklyn, Buggy, and Me

Can You Dance, Dalila?

Dear Austin: Letters from the Underground Railroad

11 Experiments that Failed

Fannie in the Kitchen

Heroes of the Surf: A Rescue Story Based on True Events

If You Ever Get Lost: The Adventures of Julia and Evan

Imogene's Last Stand

Lester's Dog

Little Bear's Little Boat

Loud Emily

M is for Mischief: An A to Z of Naughty Children

Masai and I

Members of the C.L.U.B.

My Uncle Emily

A Picnic in October

17 Things I'm Not Allowed to Do Anymore

A Sister's Wish

Sitti's Secret

Summer Camp, Ready or Not

The Tree That Came to Stay

Twinnies

Washing the Willow Tree Loon

CHALLENGING WORDS (...due to pronunciation, spelling and/or defining):

dilemma

chandeliers

rhinestones

boa

unweave

squash

collector

mysterious

tattletale

souvenir

burr

hospital

glider

confession

petticoat

justice

role model

Dracula

translator

partner

snooping

explosion

trespass

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- 1 Which poem was your favorite and why?
- 2 Can you relate to a specific experience about Jessica and Emma that you may have had with your own brother or sister? What happened?
- 3 What would a poem about your brother or sister be about?
- 4 The author chose sisterhood as the subject of her book. What subject would you choose to write about if you created a book of poetry?
- 5 How do the illustrations enhance the meaning of the poems?
- 6 Do you think Jessica and Emma have a good relationship? Why or why not?
- 7 Emma has her own language which only Jessica seems to understand. Do you have a friend or family member who has special words? Who understands and translates for them?
- 8 Why is Emma described as being a dilemma? Do you know someone who may be described as being “an interesting problem”?
- 9 Jessica feels like it is her fault when Emma breaks her arm. Why? Describe and explain some of Jessica’s feelings and thoughts about the accident.

ACTIVITIES with CORE STANDARDS:

Language Arts:

EL.2.3 2006 - READING: Comprehension and Analysis of Literary Text -- Students read and respond to a wide variety of significant works of children's literature.

- After reading the book, discuss the meanings and connections the students make to their own lives.
- Discuss the fact that this book involves “Theme Poems”. Go to www.readwritethink.org where the students can create original theme poems about subjects that interest them. Print the poems to create student poetry books, allowing the students to illustrate them.
- Discuss fact and opinion. Have students determine which statements are fact or opinion based on the book. (word document EmmaDilemmaWorksheet.doc)

EL.2.7 2006 - LISTENING AND SPEAKING: Skills, Strategies, and Applications -- Students listen critically and respond appropriately to oral communication. They speak in a manner that guides the listener to understand important ideas by using proper phrasing, pitch, and modulation (raising and lowering voice). Students deliver brief oral presentations about familiar experiences or interests that are organized around a point of view or thesis statement. Students use the same Standard English conventions for oral speech that they use in their writing.

- Have students form pairs of Poetry Buddies. In each pair, the students should each select a favorite poem from the book and recite it out loud. Their buddy will then list what happened in the poem in the correct sequence and explain the meaning of the poem. Then switch roles.

RELATED INTERNET SITES:

www.kristinegeorge.com

<http://www.kathimitchell.com/poemtypes.html> -- Poetry for kids

<http://www.storyit.com/Classics/JustPoems/index.htm> -- Classic poems for kids

www.teachingbooks.net/tb.cgi?aid=2111 – Kristine O’Connell George

www.teachingbooks.net/tb.cgi?aid=1607 – Nancy Carpenter

ATTACH ACTIVITY SHEETS HERE:

See word document EmmaDilemmaWorksheet.doc. below

Name _____

Teacher _____

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Write either F (fact) or O (opinion) in the blank to determine whether the sentence is either fact or opinion.

1 _____ Emma is a pest.

1 _____ Emma is Jessica's little sister.

1 _____ Emma's jokes are silly.

1 _____ Jessica loves Emma.

1 _____ Emma broke her arm.