

Books for Young Learners Teacher Resource

Book Notes



Mama Cut My Hair / Mamá me cortó el pelo

Author Lisa B. Wilkinson

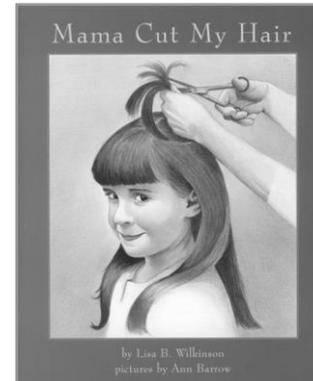
Illustrator Ann Barrow

16 pages ■ 136 Eng. words ■ 177 Spn. words

Fountas and Pinnell Level H

Reading Recovery Level 13

Descubriendo la Lectura Leve 14



Mama Cut My Hair

SYNOPSIS

A girl gets her hair cut to be like her teacher.

WHAT THE BOOK OFFERS

- Realistic fiction
- First person
- Past tense
- Line breaks do not match chunks of meaning or natural phrasing
- Longer sentence structure
- Repeated two-sentence structure; second sentence remains constant, first sentence structure repeated with different content
- Second sentence in negative and cannot be illustrated
- “When” as conjunction
- “But” as sentence beginning and transition
- Wider range of vocabulary than at earlier level and most books at this level
- Open-ended; no text on final page

POSSIBLE SKILLS EMPHASIS

- Fluency over longer sentences
- Attending to text detail, range of verbs
- Carrying purpose question through book
- Extending story
- Understanding story structure

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INTRODUCING THE BOOK

- Use the cover illustration to discuss the girl's reaction to having her hair cut.
- Discuss why we get our hair cut, who cuts our hair, and talk with classmates who have long or very short hair, asking why they do or do not have their hair cut so often/seldom.

FOCUS OF INSTRUCTION

- Identify the first sentence of each page, telling what happened and when, and constant second sentence.
- Discuss function of "when" and "but."
- Read sentence in head to aid fluency and expression before reading it orally.

FOLLOWING THE READING

- List reasons for not getting hair cut and draw students' attention to the range of verbs
- Write text for final page—dialogue between teacher and child about hair cut.
- Discuss story structure; several possibilities discounted with repeated chorus line before reason revealed and consider how this heightens reader's anticipation.

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Additional Comprehension Prompts For Oral or Written Use Before, During, and After Reading	
FINISH THIS THOUGHT	<p><i>Getting a haircut is . . .</i></p> <p><i>This book is all about . . .</i></p> <p><i>My least favorite part of the story was when . . .</i></p>
USE YOUR MEMORY	<p><i>What happened to the girl's eyes when she blew a bubble with her gum? If you aren't sure, find the picture that helps you answer the question.</i></p> <p><i>Why did the girl show her Mom a picture of her class?</i></p>
WHAT'S YOUR OPINION?	<p><i>Why do you think the baby brother pulled the girl's hair? Do you think he knew it would hurt her? Why is the baby smiling?</i></p> <p><i>What would you do if your hair stuck to the gum you were chewing?</i></p> <p><i>How could you find out what to do if you aren't sure?</i></p>
BE CREATIVE	<p><i>Fold a large piece of paper so you get four boxes.</i></p> <p><i>Draw a large oval shape in each box.</i></p> <p><i>Draw a face in each box with a different hair style. Be creative!</i></p> <p><i>You might choose to have all girls or all boys or a combination of boys and girls. What colors will you use for skin, eyes, and hair?</i></p> <p><i>Put a square box around your favorite hair style.</i></p>
VOCABULARY AGENT	<p><i>On page 3, substitute another word for 'caught.' Does it make sense?</i></p> <p><i>On page 4, substitute another word for 'sticky.' Does it make sense?</i></p> <p><i>On page 7, substitute another word for 'played.' Does it make sense?</i></p> <p><i>On page 9, substitute another word for 'branches.' Does it make sense?</i></p> <p><i>On page 11, substitute another word for 'blew.' Does it make sense?</i></p> <p><i>On page 13, substitute another word for 'said.' Does it make sense?</i></p>

Book Note by Margaret E. Mooney

Additional Comprehension Prompts by Dr. Connie Hebert

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