

New Beginnings

Author Tracy Monaghan
 Illustrator Deborah White
 12 pages ■ 277 words



New Beginnings

Em	Early				Fluent			
	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
					S	G		I

S = Shared G = Guided I = Independent

2nd grade

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

SYNOPSIS

A father and daughter build a new life after the loss of a wife/mother.

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

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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.