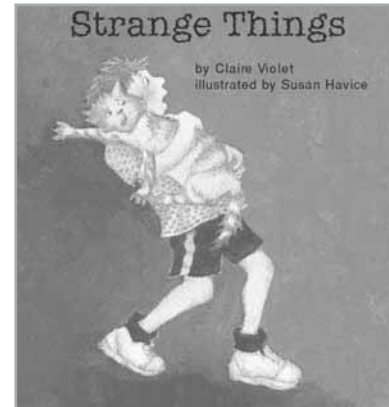


Strange Things

Author Janice Boland

Illustrator Susan Havice

16 pages ■ 289 words



Strange Things

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

S = Shared G = Guided I = Independent

Late 1st grade–2nd grade

SYNOPSIS

What could be causing strange things to happen throughout the house?

WHAT THE BOOK OFFERS

- Realistic narrative fiction
- First person, told from the boy's perspective
- Strong problem/solution structure
- Illustrations convey mood and emotion
- Illustrations give clues to problem's cause
- Several characters
- Dialogue throughout
- Descriptions in detail
- More complex concept
- Ellipsis at story climax
- Inferential reading
- Layers of meaning
- Strong sequencing of time
- Additional genre - mouse poems

POSSIBLE SKILLS EMPHASIS

- Coping with more characters and incidents
- Awareness of words used in sequencing
- Use of text to support meaning—italics, change in font size
- Quotation marks for sounds—"Slurp!"
- Dialogue with many characters
- Dialogue which develops the characters
- Use of various words - moaned, cackled, grumbled
- Wide variety of adjectives – often two adjectives per noun
- Use of commas

	Em	Early				Fluent			
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Strange Things (continued)

INTRODUCING THE BOOK

The boy and the cat in the cover illustration look scared. They still look scared on the title page. Does the title give you any clues? Why is the title in that type of font? Where does the story probably take place?

FOCUS OF INSTRUCTION

Page 3: *What do we know as readers, that the characters don't know yet? Wouldn't a cat get rid of mice in a house?*

Page 6: *What does the author want you to understand about the refrigerator, the TV, and the house lights?*
[Nod, nod, wink, wink with author]

Page 7: *What do we know about the mom?*

Page 10: *How do you feel right now? What did you read that made you feel that way? Why is the author creating this mood?*

FOLLOWING THE READING

- Research gremlins, boggarts, wee folk, and other creatures who “cause mischief” in people’s homes.
- Students may wish to discuss writing a short mystery.