

Book Notes

Dad Still Smiles / Papá todavía Sonríe

Author Lisa Brochu

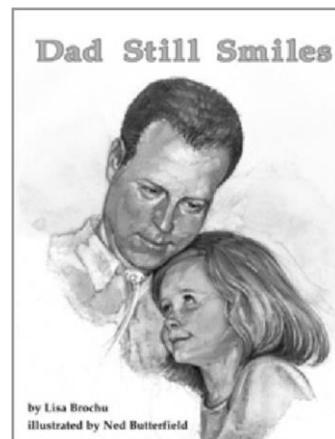
Illustrator Ned Butterfield

12 pages ■ 212 Eng. words ■ 206 Spn. words

Fountas and Pinnell Level L

Reading Recovery Level 17

Descubriendo la Lectura Level 20



Dad Still Smiles

SYNOPSIS

A father injures his spinal cord, and the family copes with the changes in their lives.

WHAT THE BOOK OFFERS ■ Realistic fiction narrative

- First person
- Tense changes from past to present
- Varied text placement
- Problem/solution structure
- Gathering information and making inferences from the text and the illustrations
- Illustrations convey mood and emotion
- Layers of meaning
- Information on the inside back cover includes an explanation of the text's theme

POSSIBLE SKILLS

EMPHASIS

- Inferential reading—reasons for actions
 - Using illustrations to make inferences
 - Comparing and contrasting with own experience
 - Understanding problem/solution structure of narrative ■
- Specialized vocabulary related to the health profession
- Understanding how characters change across time

INTRODUCING THE BOOK

What word on the cover is the most important and why?

How does the cover illustration help you understand why the author chose this title?

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FOCUS OF INSTRUCTION

Looking from the cover illustration to the title page, what further information do you have to anticipate what this story is going to be about? What questions do we have now? Let's list our questions to guide us as we read this book.

Pages 2-3; pages 4-5: *Do these pages help us answer any of our questions?*

- Ensure students realize that any one question may require information from more than one page or illustration to provide a complete or satisfactory answer.

How do you think this girl is feeling? Have you ever experienced these same feelings? How do you think she will be feeling by the end of the book? Why?

Pages 10 and 11: *How has this little girl changed? Look back through the book, paying close attention to both the actions and the illustrations of this little girl. Let's list the actions and the changes across time.*

- Use a two-column chart with one column for action or episode and the other column for the resulting feelings or emotions to show students how a character changes across time.

FOLLOWING THE READING

Why did the author write this book? How much information did you get from the illustrations? Choose a page that helped you gain information from the illustration and tell why. What does the author hope you take away from this book? How did the illustrator help contribute to the author's message? (focus on

back and forth perspective between author and illustrator) Sometimes when writers allow us inside the character, we come to know the character's thoughts, feelings, hopes, and dreams. Why might be some of this little girl's thoughts, feelings, and hopes and dreams?

- The students could write a short piece about the impact of spinal cord injuries on lives of people and families.
- Discuss why authors include extra information on the inside back cover.
- Discuss how the daughter's feelings develop and change across time in the book.
- Students can look at their writing and think about the characters in their stories. They can self-evaluate by asking themselves, "Do I let my reader know how my characters are feeling?" Perhaps they are the main character in their stories; if so, they can ask themselves, "How might I let my reader know how I am feeling and what I am thinking about?"

Book Notes

Dad Still Smiles / Papá todavía Sonríe (continued)

Additional Comprehension Prompts For Oral or Written Use Before, During, and After Reading	
FINISH THIS THOUGHT	<p><i>It's important to protect your spine because . . .</i></p> <p><i>The title of this story is Dad Still Smiles because . . .</i></p>
USE YOUR MEMORY	<p><i>How did the dad injure his spinal cord?</i></p> <p><i>Who helped the girl's dad in the hospital? Check on page 6 to see if you were right.</i></p> <p><i>What was the title of the book Dad read to the girl?</i></p>
WHAT'S YOUR OPINION?	<p><i>Look at the girl's face on page 7? What do you think she's thinking?</i></p> <p><i>Look at the dog's face on page 7? What do you think he's thinking?</i></p> <p><i>What do you think people can learn from reading this book?</i></p>
BE CREATIVE	<p><i>Check the inside front cover. Who was this book dedicated to? Look up information online about Christopher Reeve. What is he famous for and what happened to him?</i></p> <p><i>Now write a story with Superman as the hero. What crime will he solve? Who will the characters be in your story? What will the setting be?</i></p>
VOCABULARY AGENT	<p><i>Find words in the story that makes sense in the blanks below:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The girl's dad . . . needed a . . . to help him breathe.</i> • <i>An . . . came with big . . . lights and a . . . siren.</i> • <i>Dad hugs the girl with his . . . instead of his . . .</i> • <i>The girl was . . . when she first saw her Dad in the . . .</i> • <i>Dad's spinal cord was . . .</i> • <i>Dad still . . . even though things are . . .</i>

Book Note by Katie Moeller

Additional Comprehension Prompts by Dr. Connie Herbert

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