

The Hundred Penny Box

by Sharon Bell Mathis

Classroom Favorites



Teacher's Guide by Vashti Ivy

A Perma-Bound Production

Note to the Teacher

Introduce the story to the students by asking them about important objects in their lives. Have each child talk about their object. Explain to them that the story is about an important object in a person's life.

Synopsis

Aunt Dew is one hundred years old and she has one hundred pennies and stories to prove it. Michael, who loves his great-great aunt, feels he must protect her possessions from his mother, who feels "these old things should be thrown out." Through love and understanding Michael and Aunt Dew work together to preserve the hundred penny box.

Biographical Sketch

Sharon Bell Mathis is a native of Atlantic City, New Jersey, but grew up in Bedford Stayversant, Brooklyn. Mrs. Mathis received a B.A. degree from Morgan State College in Baltimore, Maryland and a Master of Library Science from Catholic University in Washington, D.C.

By profession, Mrs. Mathis is a special education teacher. She is currently working on a fellowship in Washington, D.C. as a writer-in-residence at Howard University.

Critic's Corner

This is a story of love and understanding between the elder generation and the younger generation.

Sharon Bell Mathis has received many awards for this book including: The Council of Interracial Books for Children Award, The ALA Notable Award, The Coretta Scott King Award as well as the Newbery Honor Book Award.

Objectives

1. To acquaint the child with one of the stages of aging
2. To introduce the child to the joy and love of a relationship with an elderly family member
3. To help the child to understand that stories told by the elderly are links with the past

Beyond the Story

SCIENCE: Explore the aging process of the body. Cover bone structure, eyesight, memory and skin.

MUSIC: Introduce negro spirituals and relate them to the story.

SOCIAL STUDIES: (Dates and Times): Discuss the relationship of historical events to dates on coins.

Bibliography of Other Works

Brooklyn Story. Hill and Wang.

Sidewalk Story. Viking.

Teacup Full of Roses. Viking.

Listen for the Fig Tree. Viking.

Cartwheels. Scholastic Book Service.

The "Ebony Junior Speaks!" column in *Ebony Jr!* magazine

Student Activities

1. Invite Senior Citizens in for an Adopt-a-Grandparent Day. Have students write stories and share with their adopted grandparents.
2. Have each student bring 5 pennies. Using the years stamped on each, write important events that happened that year.

ONE HUNDRED PENNY BOX TEST

Vocabulary

Read the sentences from the story. Then choose the best meaning for the underlined word.

1. It was even better when Aunt Dew whacked him.
A. tapped him B. hugged him C. kissed him
2. My own victrola, the one your father gave me.
A. radio B. T.V. C. record player
3. . . . Michael said impatiently and wished his great-great aunt would sit back down in her chair
A. waiting slowly B. in a hurry C. angry
4. All you could see was them stiff little britches.
A. dress B. pants C. shirt
5. The one with the crooked head?
A. bent at an angle B. straight C. broken

Comprehension

Read each question and underline the correct answer.

1. What was in the hundred penny box?
A. dimes B. quarters C. pennies
2. Aunt Dew was _____ years old.
A. 80 B. 100 C. 99
3. From whom did Michael and Aunt Dew hide her stuff?
A. his mother B. his father C. Michael
4. Who did Aunt Dew think Michael looked like?
A. his mom B. his dad C. her
5. What did Aunt Dew like to do when she sang "Precious Lord"?
A. sit and rock B. dance C. both A and B
6. Who gave Aunt Dew the hundred penny box?
A. Big John B. Henry Thomas C. Michael
7. What happend to John-boy's parents?
A. they drowned in the river B. they moved C. they went on a trip
8. If the hundred penny box was taken, Aunt Dew felt she would
A. go to Atlanta. B. die. C. go to sleep.
9. Where was Michael going to hide the hundred penny box?
A. the closet B. the kitchen C. the furnace room
10. What was Michael's mother going to replace the old hundred penny box with?
A. a paper sack B. a mahogany box C. a wooden box

ONE HUNDRED PENNY BOX ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary

1. A 2. C 3. B 4. B 5. A

Comprehension

1. C 3. A 5. C 7. A 9. C
2. B 4. B 6. B 8. B 10. B



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