

Lilly's Purple Plastic Purse

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ABOUT THE STORY

Lilly loves school, and she especially loves her teacher, Mr. Slinger. When Lilly gets a purple plastic purse and brings it to school, she wants to show it to everyone. Mr. Slinger, however, makes her wait to show the purse, and Lilly gets mad. What she does to Mr. Slinger – and how she makes up for her actions later – show Lilly at her funniest and most creative.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR/ ILLUSTRATOR

Kevin Henkes lives with his wife and son in Madison, Wisconsin. He is the acclaimed author and illustrator of *Chrysanthemum*, and ALA Notable Book, *Owen*, a Caldecott Honor Book, and *Julius, the Baby of the World*, which also features the funny mouse, Lilly. Henkes claims that the story of Lilly and her purse was inspired by a real little girl with a purple plastic purse that he saw in Boise, Idaho.

INTRODUCING THE STORY

Ask children if they have ever gotten an item that thrilled them so much they couldn't help talking about it. Ask them what happened if they talked in the wrong situation – in school, for example. Explain that this book is about Lilly, who makes the same mistake.

READING ACTIVITIES

Comprehension/Thinking Skills

- What are two reasons why Lilly likes Mr. Slinger?
- What happens when Lilly opens her new purse?
- What does Mr. Slinger do when Lilly talks about her purse?
- What does Lilly do to get back at Mr. Slinger?
- How does Lilly feel when she read Mr. Slinger's note? Why does she feel that way? (Analyze)
- Do you think Lilly's 'apology' was good enough? Explain your answer. (Make judgments)

Vocabulary

Have children define these words from the story and use each in a descriptive sentence.

artistic	deluxe	excellent	glittery
jaunty	considerate	furious	fabulous
uncooperative	interpretive	unique	

CROSS-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Social Studies: Career Opportunities

Point out to children that Lilly wants to be a teacher – as well as a dancer, a pilot, and surgeon. Have children describe the careers they might want to have when they grow up. Write their suggestions on the chalkboard. If possible, have adults who work at the suggested jobs come in and talk about their work with the group.

Math: Classroom Shapes

Mr. Slinger suggests that his class sit in a semicircle. Have children draw a semicircle on a piece of paper. Then tell them to draw other familiar shapes, such as a rectangle, a square, a full circle, and a triangle. Ask them to find classroom items that have the shapes they have drawn.

Language Arts: Palindromes

Mr. Slinger says, "Wow!" when he sees Lilly's artwork. Point out to children that wow is a palindrome – a word that is the same backwards and forwards. If there are children in the class named Hannah, Anna, or Bob, point out that their names are palindromes, such as mom, dad, Otto, and the sentence "Madam, I'm Adam."

Math: Quarters and More

Remind children that Lilly has three quarters in her new purple plastic purse. Ask them how much money that is (seventy-five cents). Then ask them to add up these amounts:

- five quarters
- two dimes and a nickel
- one dime and seven pennies
- a quarter and two nickels
- three quarters, a dime and a nickel

INTERNET ACTIVITY

Before you send children to do research using any of the keywords listed below, you may wish to try them yourself to be sure the sites are suitable.

An Author Interview

Have children use the keywords *Kevin Henkes* to find and read an interview with the author on the Internet. Then ask each child to write down a question they would like to ask the author.