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Activity Guide

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Chester's Way

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ABOUT THE STORY

Chester always eats the same things for breakfast, double-knots his shoes, and gets out of bed on the same side, and so does his best friend Wilson. Then Lilly moves into the neighborhood. Everything she does is different, and at first Chester and Wilson don't like her. It isn't until Lilly's differentness saves them from bullies that they begin to realize that sometimes being different can be a good thing.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR/ILLUSTRATOR

Kevin Henkes lives with his wife and son in Madison, Wisconsin. He is the acclaimed author and illustrator of *Chrysanthemum*, an ALA Notable Book, and *Owen*, a Caldecott Honor Book. He has also written another book about Lilly, *Lilly's Purple Plastic Purse*, and *Wemberly Worried*, both Live Oak Readalongs.

INTRODUCING THE STORY

Ask children if they like to do things the same way every day or if they like things different each day. Then tell them that in the book they will read, is about someone who always does things the same way and someone who is very different.

READING ACTIVITIES

Comprehension/Thinking Skills

"What does Chester have for breakfast each day?"

"What do Chester and Wilson do about Christmas?"

"What happens when bullies threaten Chester and Wilson?"

"How do Chester and Wilson's feelings about Lilly change after she rescues them?" (Compare and contrast)

"How do Chester and Wilson change after they become friends with Lilly?" (Compare and contrast)

Vocabulary

miniature diagonally duplicated disguised

Write these vocabulary words and sentences on the chalkboard. Have children copy the sentences, completing them with the correct word from the list.

- Chester always cut his sandwiches in half _____.
- Lilly was _____ as a cat.
- Each Christmas, Chester _____ his list of presents and gave it to Wilson.
- Chester liked to carry a _____ first-aid kit.

CROSS-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Language Arts: Best Friends

Ask children to write a list of five characteristics they think a best friend should have. When they are finished, have them read their lists aloud. Discuss the similarities and differences among lists, and make a master list on the chalkboard of characteristics that are important in a best friend.

Health: Dealing With Bullies

Chester and Wilson are threatened by some older, bigger bullies. Have children work in small groups to create flyers giving instructions on how to deal with bullies. Children should include at least three things they can do when approached by a bully. When groups are finished, have them share their flyers with the rest of the class.

Math: Halloween Pairs

Chester and Wilson always dress up as pairs of things for Halloween -- salt and pepper shakers, two mittens on a string, and ham and eggs. Have children think of other pairs of items that might make good Halloween costumes. List their ideas on the chalkboard.

Language Arts: Good Influences

Chester and Wilson change Lilly's behavior, and Lilly changes their behavior after they become friends. Have children make and complete charts like the one below that shows how the three friends influence each other's actions in a good way.

How Chester & Wilson Influence Lilly	How Lilly Influences Chester & Wilson

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.

Bicycle Hand Signals

Chester and Wilson are careful always to use hand signals when they ride their bikes. Have children work together in small groups to use the keywords *bicycle hand signals* to look for useful hand signals on the Internet. Groups can make posters showing the hand signal that bike riders should use. Hang completed posters around the classroom.