

## Madeline

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### ABOUT THE STORY

In this Caldecott Honor book, little Madeline awakes one night in need of an appendectomy. After the other girls at her private school in France see her scar and gifts, they want to have their appendixes out, too. Miss Clavel, their teacher, tells them to count their blessings and be happy they are well.

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR/ILLUSTRATOR

German author Ludwig Bemelmans is most likely best known for his lovable character Madeline. His simplistic, rhythmic books about the young heroine are based on his personal experiences. He was awarded the Caldecott Medal for Madeline's Rescue and the Caldecott Honor Medal for Madeline.

### INTRODUCING THE STORY

Explain to students that boarding schools are places where children stay during the school months. They eat and sleep there in addition to attending classes there. Tell them this is the kind of school that Madeline attends and that it is in Paris, France.

### READING ACTIVITIES

#### **Comprehension/Thinking Skills**

1. In the story the twelve little girls "broke their bread". Discuss what this figure of speech means. (ate their meals together)
2. Why was Madeline taken to the hospital? (to have her appendix out)
3. What was the special kind of vehicle that took Madeline to the hospital? (ambulance)
4. What was crank on the end of Madeline's hospital bed used for? (to adjust the bed)
5. Discuss why each of the other little girls wanted to have her appendix out, too. (to receive gifts and have a scar)

### **Language Arts: Rhyming**

Have children identify the words that are missing from the following rhyming lines of the book.

1. "Everybody had to cry - not a single eye was" (dry).
2. "Little Madeline sat in bed, cried and cried – her eyes were " (red).
3. "They went home and broke their bread, brushed their teeth and went to" (bed).
4. "In the middle of the night, Miss Clavel turned on the" (light).
5. "She was not afraid of mice - she loved winter, snow, and" (ice).

### **Language Arts: Creative Writing**

Have children imagine that they live at a boarding school like Madeline's. Have them write a story about what they think a day there might be like.

### CROSS-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

#### **History & Research Skills: French architecture**

Ask students to identify the landmark that is on the cover of the book (Eiffel Tower). Then have children examine the illustration first seen as they open the book (Place de la Concorde). Bring the children to the library media center and research these two landmarks. Use the information found to give a presentation or write a short report.

#### **Math: Brought to Life**

Use the children as math manipulatives. Have them line up in two rows of six and act out various mathematic problems (try addition, subtraction, or fractions).

#### **Like Skills: Field Trip**

If possible, bring the children to a hospital for a guided tour. If a field trip is not possible, discuss what hospitals are like. Ask if anyone has ever been in a hospital. If so, what was it like?

### 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.

Use the Internet to conduct research about the historic landmarks in France. Children gather information and then design posters or other projects demonstrating what they have learned. (Research Eiffel Tower, the Louvre, Versailles, Place de la Concorde, River Seine, etc.)



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# Activity Guide

800-788-1121

## Madeline (Edición en Español)

### ABOUT THE STORY

After proudly displaying her scar following a hurried appendectomy, a little French girl is envied by her classmates in the private girls' school she attends.

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR / ILLUSTRATOR

Probably the greatest gift this native German gave to his adopted America is Madeline, one of the classic heroines of children's literature. Her refreshing adventures are continued in *Madeline and the Bad Hat*, *Madeline and the Gypsies*, *Madeline in London*, and *Madeline's Rescue* (for which the late Mr. Bemelmans was awarded the Caldecott Medal). The adventures and settings of the Madeline books reflect the author/illustrator's wide personal experiences.

### INTRODUCING THE STORY

In many countries there are boarding schools where children stay during the school months. They eat and sleep there; they attend classes there, and sometimes they go on outings with their teachers.

Madeline is one of Miss Clavel's students at a boarding school in Paris, France. This book tells about one of her adventures.

### READING ACTIVITIES

#### Comprehension/Thinking Skills

- "Why do you think the girls always walked in two straight lines?"
- "Why was Madeline crying in the night?"
- "Why did Miss Clavel think something was wrong?"
- "Why did each of the other girls want her appendix out also?"

#### Vocabulary

##### From Many to One

Because there are 12 girls in this story, many of the words used are plural. Change the following verbs from their (3<sup>rd</sup> person) plural form to their (3<sup>rd</sup> person) singular form.

desayunan	almuerzan
cenan	se cepillan
salieron	dijeron
se quedaron	viven

Change the following nouns and adjectives from plural to singular.

filas	tristes
veces	ratones
ojos	pájaro
árboles	noches

### Antonym or Synonym?

Tell if the following words are antonyms (opposites) or synonyms (similar meanings).

viejo – anciano	encendió – apagó
malo – bueno	se acostaron – se levantaron
tristes – contentos	niña – muchacha
pequeña – chica	cerró – abrió
invierno – verano	contesearon -- respondieron

### CROSS-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

#### Social Studies: Where in the World

Locate Paris on a map of the world. Share some photographs of Paris, show other examples of French culture. Teach children how to count to 12 in French: un, deux, trois, quatre, cinq, six, sept, huit, neuf, dix, onze, douze.

#### Math: Number Sense

There are 12 girls in the story. Give each child 12 counters. Have the children arrange them in 2 lines, like the girls. How many are in each line? What other arrangements can be made with the counters? (3x4, 4x3, 6x2, 12x1). What happens if you put 5 or 7 counters in a line?

Each girl brought Madeline a flower when she was in the hospital. How many flowers did she receive all together? How many would she have gotten if each girl brought 2, 3, etc.?

#### Two by Two

The girls always walk in 2 straight lines. Brainstorm other things that come two by two. (spider legs, fingers, a dozen eggs, etc.)

#### Language Arts: Outside the Window

Madeline spent much of her time in the hospital looking out the window. Have children write a description of what she might have seen. Use illustrations in the book or other photographs of Paris to help generate ideas.