

THE BEST STORY

K-3

**Written by Eileen Spinelli
Illustrated by Anne Wilsdorf**

Published by Dial Books for Young Readers

Story Summary

The Red Brick Library was having a contest: Write the Best Story and Win First Prize! When the girl you will meet in this book sees that sign, she just knows she has to win this contest. But what makes a story the best? Should it be funny, sad or romantic? Should it be an action story? Writing is harder than she thought, but with a little help from her family and friends, this budding author is able to find her own best story.

Objectives

1. To develop an appreciation of different types of literature.
2. To develop library skills by learning to select specific types of books.
3. To develop creative writing skills.

Before viewing the video

Tell the children that as they view this video, they will meet the author, Eileen Spinelli, as she introduces her story. Ask the children if they have ever tried to write a story. How did you get your story ideas? Did you ask anyone for help? You will meet a little girl in this video who enters “The Best Story” contest. She really wants to win first prize. You will see what kinds of advice she gets from her family and how she finally decides how to write a great story.

Questions to ask after viewing the video

1. What is the first prize going to be for the winner of “The Best Story” contest?
2. How did the little girl decide to get help for writing her story?
3. What advice did Tim give his sister about writing a good story?
4. What ideas did the little girl’s dad give her for writing a story?
5. What did Aunt Jane think about writing a story?
6. What did cousin Anika think made a good story?
7. What advice did the little girl’s mom give her about writing a story?
8. When did the little girl think her story came out just right?
9. What lesson did the little girl learn about writing a story?

Activities

1. Discuss the different types of stories that can be written. Select a topic and have the children compose a paragraph for a story that might be action, humor, fantasy, or any other type each child chooses.
2. Take the class to the school library. Have them ask the librarian how to go about finding a particular type of book. Have them each take a book out written in a style of interest to them. Have the students give oral presentations to the class focusing on what the author does to make his/her book exciting in its own style.
3. Present an outline of a story to the class of a familiar book. Have the children work in small groups. Assign to each group a different type of story they are to create from this outline. Discuss the ways in which the little girl in the book changed her story to make it sad, funny, romantic, or action.
4. Have the children contribute to a bulletin board that illustrates the different types of stories. For example, draw the action, funny or romantic “Goldilocks.”