

The Littlest Angel #2: Lily has a secret

Author: Elizabeth Pulford

Illustrator: Aki Fukuoka

Synopsis

Lily is a first year angel at Amelia's Angel Academy. She has only recently earned her wings and is determined to do well in the school concert which is fast approaching. However, when she hears a pitiful meow coming from some bushes, Lily breaks all the rules by leaving the school grounds and bringing the small kitten into her room. There are no animals allowed at Amelia's Angel Academy and Lily has to figure out a way to hide the kitten until its leg has healed and she can let it go. This presents Lily with a huge problem, especially since Tisa is chasing after her so that they can practice for the concert. When Mother Angel's harp is destroyed because Lily is distracted by the kitten, she fears that her secret will be revealed.

Text Type

The Littlest Angel #2: Lily has a Secret is the second book in the delightful new series by Elizabeth Pulford. Perfect for girls aged 6-9 years, the story contains named chapters and beautiful illustrations that ensure readers will remain engaged. The story is humorous and the characters are loveable. Lily is a charming main character who is intrinsically good hearted and caring. The fact that she is also extremely unlucky and accident-prone makes her even more likeable.

The book features a beautiful foiled cover and the interior text and illustrations are printed in bright turquoise. Girls will be eager to collect each book as it is published.

Sharing the Novel

The novel has been divided up as follows: Chapters 1 and 2 (pp. 3-8), Chapters 3-7 (pp. 9-25) and Chapters 8-13 (pp. 26-44).

During the shared session encourage students to ask questions to clarify their understanding of words and ideas presented in the text. Have them make predictions and inferences. Students should be reading for enjoyment.

Looking at the illustrations will help them understand the storyline and enter into Lily's world of angels and magic.

Introducing the Novel

Have students study the front cover of the novel and read the blurb.

- Who is the littlest angel?
- What do you think her secret might be?
- What is the symbol on top of the letter i? What does this symbol represent?
- What words and images do you associate with angels?

Teacher reads Chapters 1 and 2 (pp. 3-8) aloud to the class. Students follow along in their books.

Comprehension Chapters 1 and 2 (pp. 3-8)

- Why does Lily climb over the wall rather than fly? Why does she leave the grounds of the academy? What will happen if she gets caught?
- What is "no-angels-land"?
- What is wrong with the kitten?
- Who comes looking for Lily while she is rescuing the kitten?
- Why does Lily decide that the kitten needs to be a secret?
- Why doesn't Lily tell Tisa about the kitten?
- What excuse does Lily give Tisa for not going to practice?
- Who repaired Lily's wings? What is unusual about him?

Discussion

- Why does Lily feel compelled to rescue the kitten despite the fact that she might get into trouble? What does this suggest about her character?
- What potential problems could occur with Lily's plan to hide the kitten?
- Predict what will happen in the story next.

Students read Chapters 3-7 (pp. 9-25) independently before the next shared session.

Comprehension Chapters 3-7 (pp. 9-25)

- What does Lily have to do before she rushes off to practice? How does she hide the kitten?
- Who comes into Lily's room when she is trying to catch the kitten? What does she think the kitten is? Why does she take Lily's laundry bag? Why does Lily need to get the bag back?
- Why is Tisa unhappy with Lily when she turns up for practice? Why does Tisa think that Lily is up to something?
- Who does the harp belong to? Why do the girls have to be careful with it?
- What does Lily's dance have to include if she is to earn her silver slippers?
- Why does Lily get annoyed at Tisa?
- Why happens to stop Lily from successfully completing the angel back flip flutter? How does the harp get broken?

Discussion

- Is Lily doing the right thing by hiding the kitten? Why/why not?
- Describe Tisa. How is she different to Lily?
- How do you think Lily feels about breaking the harp?
- Make a prediction about what will happen in the story next.
- What do you think the best part about being an angel would be?

Students read Chapters 8-13 (pp. 26-44) independently before the next shared session.

Comprehension Chapters 8-13 (pp. 26-44)

- Why is Lily so convinced that the harp can be fixed?
- What does Lily tell Tisa to do with the harp while she thinks of a way to fix it?
- Why does Lily look for Becky in the kitchen? Where does she find her?
- What is special about angel Mipmop? Who does she suggest that Lily go and talk to about the harp?
- Who is Frumplepuss? Why is Lily surprised to see him outside? How does Frumplepuss react when he sees the kitten? What gives him a fright?
- How does Winger O'Reilly react when he sees Lily at the door? What special skills does Winger O'Reilly have?
- Where does Lily leave Becky while she is working with Winger O'Reilly?

- Why do you think Winger O'Reilly can't help Lily fix the harp? What is he allowed to do? What will the final result depend on? How does Lily feel about this?
- What does Lily have to put into the silver bowl to make the potion? How long does she have to do this?
- When does Winger O'Reilly return? How does Lily know that the mixture has been done correctly?
- What steps does Lily have to follow to make the harp as good as new? Why is Lily worried about completing these steps?
- Where does Lily find the harp? Why does Lily think that Tisa's hiding place is clever?
- How does Lily reach the top of the harp? Why doesn't she answer Tisa when she calls out?
- What happens to the harp after Lily sprinkles the mixture on it?
- What does Lily rush off to collect after she fixes the harp?
- Who wants to see Lily? What does Lily see as she enters the room?
- Why isn't Mother Angel angry with Lily?
- Why does Lily feel like she has treated Tisa badly? How does she make it up to her?
- What does Lily decide to call the kitten?

Discussion

- What lessons do you think Lily has learned from her experiences?
- Is Mother Angel right? Are there always exceptions to every rule?

Activities

- **Spell** - Create a spell to solve a particular problem or fix something. Present your spell on a scroll using interesting lettering and illustrations.
- **Plot Graph** - Identify 10 important events in the text. Draw a graph. Label the vertical axis "Level of excitement". Along the horizontal axis list the 10 events in the order that they occur. Plot each event on the graph according to its level of excitement.
- **Static Image** - Design a programme for Amelia's Angel Academy advertising the concert. Remember to include details such as time and place.

- **Personal Effects** - Put together a collection of Lily's personal effects (objects or things that are important to her). Explain the significance of these items to Lily.
- **Character** - Imagine that you are Lily. Write an account of her experiences that you can present to the class in role.
- **Script** - Choose an important event from the story and write a script for it. Remember to include a list of characters and stage directions. Practise your play and present it to the class.
- **Static Image** - design a poster advertising the novel *The Littlest Angel - Lily has a secret*. Your poster should be aimed at encouraging people to read the story. It should be suitable for display in your school library.
- **Writing** - Write a letter to the author explaining why you enjoyed the book.

Notes written by Vicki Ladd