

The Littlest Angel – Lily gets her wings

Author: Elizabeth Pulford

Illustrator: Aki Fukuoka

Synopsis

Lily is the littlest angel at Amelia's Angel Academy, and it's time for her to sit a test to qualify for her wings and a proper place at the academy. However, there is only one place available, and two angels are vying for it. While Lily is enthusiastic and passionate she lacks confidence in her own ability to complete the tests required. On top of this everything keeps going wrong for Lily. Someone has hidden her practice wings and if she can't find them she won't be able to take the test. As things go from bad to worse Lily begins to wonder if the other angel might be sabotaging her...

Text Type

The Littlest Angel - Lily gets her wings is a delightful new illustrated series that little girls aged 6-9 years will love. The book is visually appealing, featuring a beautiful foiled cover and interior text and illustrations printed in bright pink. The novel has short, named chapters that allow readers to make predictions about what will happen next in the story. The story is fast-paced and contains a number of humorous episodes. Lily is a likeable character with a good heart. She has a tendency to make mistakes and this often leads to hilarious misadventures. Readers will be drawn to her enthusiasm and eagerness to do well. It is Lily's haplessness that eventually leads to her earning a place in the academy, so this characteristic turns out to be a positive attribute after all. Readers will be curious about the next adventure that Lily will have.

Sharing the Novel

The novel has been divided up as follows: Chapters 1 and 2 (pp. 1-14), Chapters 3-7 (pp. 15-54) and Chapters 8-13 (pp. 55-85).

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.

- What do you know about angels? What images come to mind when you think about angels?
- Who is the main character in the story? What is her dream?
- What does Lily need to find in order to take the test?
- What sorts of tests might Lily need to do to become an angel?

Teacher reads Chapters 1 and 2 (pp. 1-14) aloud. Students follow along in their books.

Comprehension Chapters 1 and 2 (pp. 1-14)

- Why is today the "big day"?
- Who else is trying out for a spot at the academy? How does Lily feel when she sees that her bed is empty?
- What colour gown does Lily wear? Who is allowed to wear white ones?
- Why does Lily think that Tisa has hidden her practice wings? Why is it so important that she find them quickly?
- What will happen to Lily if she doesn't get into the academy?
- Whose wings does Lily find lying on the bed? What happens when she tries to take the wings off?

Discussion

- Why would Tisa hide Lily's practice wings? What does this suggest about her as a person?
- What have we learnt about Lily so far?
- What do you think will happen to Lily when Felicity discovers that she has ripped her wings?

Students read Chapters 3-7 (pp. 15-54) independently before the next shared session.

Comprehension Chapters 3-7 (pp. 15-54)

- Who does Lily have to report the incident to? How does she feel about this?

- What does Lily notice in the tree as she stands outside Mother Angel's office? Who is standing at the bottom of the tree laughing?
- How does Lily get up into the tree? What rule is she breaking? Who sees her up the tree?
- Why doesn't Lily go and see Mother Angel?
- How does Tisa react when Lily runs into the Great Hall of Testing?
- Who is Angel Mina? Why is Lily glad that she is taking the test?
- What is the first test? Why is Lily nervous about completing this test?
- Who does the test first? How does Lily feel when she thinks that Tisa might not make it over the pond?
- What happens to distract Lily when it is her turn to fly over the pond?
- How does Lily feel when she ends up in the pond? Why doesn't she tell Angel Mina about the moth?
- What is the second test? How does Lily feel when Angel Mina tells her that she has to do it blindfolded?
- Why is Lily so surprised when Tisa lands perfectly?
- How does Lily feel when she is flying downwards without being able to see? Where does she end up?
- What does Angel Mina say to Lily when Tisa goes to get a towel? What secret does she tell her? What advice does she give her?
- Where do Tisa and Lily have to go to learn what the final test is? Why is Lily so nervous about going there? What is the third test? How long do the angels have to complete it?
- What punishment does Mother Angel give Lily for touching Felicity's wings? Why does this punishment jeopardise Lily's chance of getting into the academy?

Discussion

- Who does Lily want to be like? Why does Lily feel inadequate compared to the other angels?
- What do we know about Tisa? Why is she trying so hard to sabotage Lily's tests? What does this suggest about her character? How is Lily different to Tisa?
- Does Lily have the qualities that it takes to be an angel? Why/why not?
- What do you think Angel Mina means when she says "my eyes come from my heart"? Why do you think Angel Mina tries so hard to help Lily succeed?
- If you were given the task of making Professor Glumbo laugh what would you do?
- Predict what will happen next in the story. Who deserves a place in the academy more? Tisa or Lily? Explain your answer.

Students read Chapters 8-13 (pp. 55-85) independently before the next shared session.

Comprehension Chapters 8-13 (pp. 55-85)

- Who is Angel Mipmop? What time is it when Lily starts scrubbing the floor? In what way does Angel Mipmop make her job more difficult?
- What does Lily grab from her bedroom before she goes up to the attic?
- How does Lily know that Tisa has failed the test?
- How does Lily feel when she enters Professor Gumbo's room?
- Describe Professor Gumbo.
- In what ways does Lily try to be herself in front of the Professor?
- How does Professor Gumbo react when Lily reads him the jokes from the book? What happens with the jumping beans? How does Professor Gumbo react to Lily's song? Why does Lily give up?
- Why is Lily unsure about making popcorn for the Professor? Why does she decide to do so, despite the fact that he has been so horrible to her?
- Why does Lily decide to add more corn to the pot? What happens when the corn starts popping? What does Lily put over the lid to stop the popcorn escaping? What happens to the book? Describe what happens when the lid comes off pot.
- What does Lily hear through all the chaos? Why do you think the Professor finds the disastrous episode so funny?
- What does Tisa apologise for when Lily gets back to her room? How did Tisa cheat with the landing?
- What does Tisa tell Lily about her parents? What realisation does Lily come to about Tisa? Why does Lily decide to give up her place for Tisa?
- Describe what Tisa and Lily see when they enter the Hall of Truth.
- Why does Lily tell Tisa not to confess to Mother Angel? Why is Mother Angel able to offer two places instead of one? What does Mother Angel present to the girls?
- What does Mother Angel tell Lily about her wings?
- How does Mother Angel decide to celebrate the occasion?

Discussion

- Why do you think the angels at the academy are eager for Lily to succeed? What qualities and attributes do you think they see in her?
- How does Lily's tendency for making mistakes help her earn her place in the academy? What lesson do you think we can learn from Lily?

Activities

Static Image - Design a web page to advertise the novel. Remember you are trying to encourage people to read the book so your web page needs to make the book seem appealing. You might want to include a brief plot summary, information about the characters and themes and links to other sites. Try and combine verbal and visual features to convey your ideas.

Character - Write several paragraphs explaining what Lily and Tisa are like as characters and how their characters are developed throughout the story. Pay particular attention to the differences between these characters.

Board game - Design a board game based on the story. For every positive event that occurs reward the player, for every negative event, penalise them. Illustrate your board game with scenes or important settings from the story.

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.

Review - Write a book review for *The Littlest Angel - Lily gets her wings*. Include information about the plot (but don't give too much away!). Discuss the characters, setting and themes. Remember to include your personal opinion about the book and why you would recommend it to others.

Static Image - Design a new book cover and write a new blurb for *The Littlest Angel - Lily gets her wings*. Write a paragraph explaining why your design will encourage people to read the novel.

Static Image - design a poster advertising the novel *The Littlest Angel - Lily gets her wings*. Your poster should be aimed at encouraging people to read the story. It should be suitable for display in your school library.

Character - draw a picture of Lily on a piece of cartridge paper. Around her picture write as many adjectives as you can that describe her character.

Notes written by Vicki Ladd