

# **The Littlest Angel – Lily lands in bubble trouble**

Author: Elizabeth Pulford

Illustrations: Aki Fukuoka

## **Synopsis**

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It is Mother Angel's birthday and Lily is determined to be part of the celebrations. So far she has tried out for the Juggling for Joy team and the Angel Acrobatics troop but her clumsiness kept her from making the teams. Her last hope is the Heavenly chorus, but her throat is feeling a bit scratchy. When she performs in front of the selector nothing comes out except a squeak. When Angel Freya finds Lily she diagnoses her with spottimonities and confines her to the Sainly Sick Room. Lily is distraught. At this rate she will miss the birthday celebrations altogether. Then she devises a clever plan. Frumplepuss the cat is missing. He is hiding away trying to avoid having a bath. Unless Frumplepuss is found Professor Glumbo refuses to attend Mother Angel's birthday. Lily knows that Mother Angel will be upset if Professor Glumbo doesn't attend so she decides to find the sneaky cat. However, her plan is fraught with problems. Angel Freya runs a tight ship and Lily is not allowed to leave her bed or have visitors without permission. And Frumplepuss himself presents a challenge. Even if Lily manages to find him how will she ever convince him to have a bath?

## **Text Type**

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*Lily Lands in a Bubble of Trouble* is the fourth book in Elizabeth Pulford's delightful new series *The Littlest Angel*. Perfect for young girls aged 6-9 years, the story contains named chapters and beautiful illustrations that ensure readers will remain engaged. Each of the books in the series features a beautiful foiled cover and number 4's interior text and illustrations are printed in bright green. Girls will be eager to collect each book as it is published.

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 a bit unlucky and accident-prone makes her even more likeable. Lily is kind and giving - in fact she has all the right qualities to make her a perfect angel!

## Sharing the Novel

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*The novel has been divided up as follows: Chapters 1 and 2 (pp. 7-12), Chapters 3-8 (pp. 17-56), and Chapters 9-14 (pp. 57-91).*

*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

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

- How do you know that this book is part of a series?
- Who is the main character?
- Who is having a birthday party?
- What is Lily sick with?
- Who do you think Frumplepuss might be?
- Why do you think the story is called *Lily Lands in Bubble Trouble*?
- What special qualities do you think an angel should possess?

*Teacher reads Chapters 1 and 2 (pp. 7-12) aloud to the class. Students follow along in their books.*

## Comprehension Chapters 1 and 2 (pp. 7-12)

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- Whose birthday is it? Why does Lily think that she might know what the girls are planning?
- Where does Lily go to school?
- What is Lily auditioning for? Why does she feel anxious? What song does she choose to perform? What happens when she tries to sing? How do the other girls' react to her attempts?
- Who does Lily bump into on the stairway? Why doesn't Lily tell her the truth about how she is feeling? Where does Angel Freya make Lily follow her to? How does Lily feel about this?

### Discussion

- What sorts of things do you think that Lily might learn at Amelia's Angel Academy?

- Why is Lily so determined to do something extra special for Mother Angel? What does this suggest about her as a person?
- Why do you think Angel Freya is known as Freya the Ferocious?
- What do you think is going to happen in the story next?

*Students read Chapters 3-8 (pp. 17-56) independently before the next shared session.*

## **Comprehension Chapters 3-8 (pp. 17-56)**

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- Why is Lily surprised when she sees the Saintly Sick Room?
- What does Angel Freya diagnose Lily with? How long does she think it will take Lily to recover?
- Who is Mirry and what is she looking for?
- Why is it so important that Mirry finds Frumplepuss? What does she want to get him ready for?
- Where does Frumplepuss sometimes hide?
- What does Angel Freya say about Lily's chances of making it to the surprise party?
- What plan does Lily begin to formulate? Why does she think that this will be a special present for Mother Angel?
- Who sneaks into the Saintly Sick Room to visit Lily? What does she bring her?
- What does Angel Freya mean when she says "This sick room is run as a tight ship"?
- Why does Lily have to hide Petal?
- What does Angel Freya give Lily to help her throat?
- How does Lily manage to hide Petal from Angel Freya?
- Who comes to visit Lily next? What does she bring her? What does she tell Lily about the Hall of Special Occasions? How have the other angels ensured that Mother Angel won't go into the Hall and spoil the surprise?
- Who comes and visits Lily after Angel Mina leaves? What does she bring her?
- Why does Angel Mipmop think that Angel's Freya's sick room is too clean?
- How many visitors has Lily seen by mid-afternoon?
- What does Lily take with her as a disguise when she leaves her sick bed? How does she know where Frumplepuss is hiding?
- What adjectives does Lily use to describe Frumplepuss?
- Where does Lily find Frumplepuss hiding? What does Frumplepuss do when he realises that he has been discovered?

**Discussion**

- Come up with some suggestions for a special present that Lily could give Mother Angel.
- What does the fact that so many people come and visit Lily while she is sick suggest about how she is perceived by others?
- Do you agree with Angel Mipmop when she says "I need a little disorder...and from that comes order..."? Why/why not?
- What do you think Angel Freya will do if she catches Lily out of bed?
- Lily is breaking the rules by looking for Frumplepuss? Are her actions justified? Why/why not?
- Predict what will happen in the story next.

*Students read Chapters 9-14 (pp. 57-91) independently before the next shared session.*

**Comprehension Chapters 9-14 (pp. 57-91)**

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- Why does Lily hide under her bedcover? What else hides with her?
- How do Lily and Frumplepuss end up in the laundry basket? Where does the chute that they are tossed down lead to? Where does the pair land?
- What does Lily do to Frumplepuss while he is in the soapy bubbles? How does Frumplepuss feel about this?
- What two choices does Lily face after Frumplepuss runs out of the Soapsuds room? What does she decide to do?
- How does Lily know where Frumplepuss has gone? Why does she lose the trail?
- Why does Lily hide in the Needle and Thread room? Why does this turn out to be lucky for her?
- Why does Frumplepuss look like a mess? How does Lily fix him up? How does Lily feel after she has completed her task?
- Who does Lily see as she leaves the Needle and Thread room? How does her friend react when Lily tells her that she left the Saintly Sick Room without permission?
- How does Mirry react when she sees what Lily has done to Frumplepuss? How do Mirry and Lily carry Frumplepuss out of the room?
- Who catches Lily while she is out of bed? How does Mirry stick up for her friend? Why does Lily decide that she doesn't like Angel Freya one bit?
- What surprise is waiting for Lily when she returns to the Saintly Sick Room? Why does Lily feel nervous when she sees who is waiting for her?

- Why have the three angels come to visit Lily? How does Lily feel about their suggestion? Why is Lily surprised when she learns who suggested her for the job?
- How does Lily perform at the party?
- What does the notice around Frumplepuss's neck say?

### Discussion

- Freya the Ferocious is nothing like her nickname. Why is it important to get to know people for yourself before you judge them?
- One of the ideas presented in the story is that not everyone is good at everything, but if you persevere you will eventually find your strength. How is this idea developed by the author?

## Activities

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**Setting** - Design a map of Amelia's Angel Academy that shows where all of the important places mentioned in the story are located.

**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 Lands in Bubble Trouble*. 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.

**Static Image** - Design an invitation to Mother Angel's birthday. Remember to include details such as time and place and you may want to advertise the special events and performances that will be taking place.

**Plot** - Choose 10 important events that occur in the story and draw a storyboard depicting them. Under each illustration write a brief summary about what is happening.

**Oral Book Report** - Write a book report that can be presented orally to the class. Include information about the storyline, characters, your favourite scene and the author's message. Include an extract from the novel in your presentation.

**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*