



Theodora Bear

Carolyn Jones
illustrated by Barbara Spurrll

ISBN: 978-1-55143-496-4
AR Quiz # 116038

About the Book

Harriet is a girl who has a large collection of stuffed animals. A visiting teddy, Theodora Bear, leads the other animals in a variety of attempts to boss Harriet around. It is all Harriet can do to get her own way once in a while.

About the author

Carolyn Jones is a teacher in Coquitlam, British Columbia. Theodora Bear is her first children's book. It is set in Strathcona, Chinatown's residential neighborhood, where Carolyn lives. Like Theodora Bear, Carolyn loves to shop in Chinatown.

About the Writing

Carolyn's two goddaughters, Emma and Sarah, were the inspiration for the book. They always ask for stories about Theodora, the bossy, mischievous teddy bear. In Jones' stories, the teddy bear always outsmarts the adults. Emma and Sarah often scold Theodora for the "bad" things she's done since they saw her last.

Writing the book was easy, since Jones has a large collection of stuffed animals herself.

Teaching Ideas—Curriculum Connections

Prereading Ideas

Chapter One: Sick Day

How do you feel when you have a cold?

What is Antarctica? Where is Antarctica?

Chapter Two: Chores

What chores need to be done every day? What chores are you expected to do at home?

Chapter Three: Music, music, music

What kind of music do you like to listen to?

Chapter Four: Movie Night

In this chapter, the animals watch a movie set in London, England. The people there have accents different from most accents we hear in Canada. What does an English accent sound like? (Be prepared to do one if you can't elicit it from students.)

Chapter Five: Theodora Bear Goes Camping

Have you ever gone camping? What was it like? What do you need to take with you when you go camping?

Chapter Six: Christmas Planning

Note: If you have students in your class who are Jehovah's Witness or belong to other religions that do not celebrate or acknowledge Christmas, you may wish to skip this chapter. Or you may wish to broaden your discussion to include other holidays.

If you were going to get a teddy bear a present, what would you get her/him?

Chapter Seven: Theodora and the Fish

Have you ever gone shopping with adults and seen something you wanted them to buy for you? Were you able to convince them to buy it for you?

Chapter Eight: Yoga

What is yoga? (Be prepared to demonstrate a simple yoga pose. Have the whole class try it. This will be simpler if they're already on the carpet.)

Chapter Nine: Counting

What is ABC order? (Write three or four students' names on the board and elicit alphabetical order of the names.)

Chapter Ten: Names

Have you ever wanted to change your name? If you could change your name, what would your new name be? Do you have a nickname?

Chapter Eleven: Bedtime

Have you ever woken up in the night because the blankets have fallen off the bed?

Chapter Twelve: Going Home

What hobbies do you have? What hobbies do members of your family have? What hobbies does your best friend have? Bird-watching is a hobby. What do you think bird-watchers do? Do you ever see birds near the school or where you live?

Classroom Discussion Questions

Chapter One

When you have a cold, what should you do to get better?

Why don't we say "shut up" to someone when we want that person to quiet down?

Chapter Four

Have you ever been at home when all the power has gone out? What did you do? What can you do for fun when the power goes out and the radio, television and computer don't work?

Chapter Six

What are the holidays you celebrate? How do you and your family plan for them? Do you give gifts or not?

Chapter Seven

Theodora Bear's fish is a good pet because she is quiet. Theodora's fish also does tricks. Other animals make good pets for different reasons. What makes different animals good pets? What animals wouldn't make good pets?

Chapter Eleven

What can you do to make sure you get a good night's sleep every night?

Suggested Activities

Vocabulary/spelling for *Theodora Bear*

Chapter One

grumpy, frowned, coughed, quiet

Chapter Two

household chore, thumbs, pre-breakfast

Chapter Three

off-key

Chapter Four

relaxing, cushion, accents, relax

Chapter Five

tease, revenge, essentials, kazoos, roughing it

Chapter Six

marzipan, naughty or nice

Chapter Seven

picky shopper, dumplings, moon cakes, vegetarian

Chapter Eight

yoga, yoga positions, dresser

Chapter Nine

critic, schedule

Chapter Ten

roots, hurricane, crocodile, queen

Chapter Eleven

wrapped, sales

Chapter Twelve

binoculars, hobby, éclairs, wombat

Other Titles and Websites of Interest

www.theodorabear.com

Winnie the Pooh by A.A. Milne (Dutton Juvenile)