

THE MOLE SISTERS AND THE QUESTION

written and illustrated by Roslyn Schwartz

Genre: Picture book, fiction

Themes: Friendship, Exploration, Self-awareness, Health/Wellness, Early Readers

Guided Reading Level: I

Suitable for: Grades K – 1

Summary

A picture book that features two moles who are both sisters and best friends. The mole sisters ask themselves “Who are we?” and answer the question through thinking, discussion, and exploration.

ACTIVITY IDEAS

The following activity ideas are only a start. There are many possibilities for helping students construct meaning from text.

Comprehension activities:

- help readers to extend their general knowledge from prior experience
- develop reading strategies for comprehension
- bring relevance to the act of reading
- foster discussion and reflection through response to the text

BEFORE STARTING THE BOOK

Activities to build the context and introduce the topic of the book, and to establish prior knowledge and interest and develop predictions of what the text will be about.

1. What questions do you have? What do you wonder about?
2. How can you get answers to your questions? Who can you ask?
3. What’s funny about the cover of the book?
4. What question might the mole sisters be asking?

WHILE READING THE BOOK

Activities to check on comprehension, stimulate interest, involve readers in reflection as they read, and encourage consideration of other readers' reactions.

1. What are the mole sisters doing while they are thinking? Why does looking up at the sky make people feel like thinking?
2. What do the mole sisters want to know?
3. How do the mole sisters decide they are not fish?
4. How are the mole sisters different from birds?
5. Why are the sisters glad they are not snails?
6. Are the sisters happy with their answer to their question? How do you know?

AFTER READING THE BOOK

Activities to inspire continued reflection and response to the text, bring conclusion to the experience of reading this particular text, and stimulate further extensions.

1. How do the sisters get an answer to their question?
2. Why didn't the sisters just say "we're moles"? What's the difference between being moles and being the mole sisters?
3. What do you think of the sisters' answer? What answers would you give them?
4. How would you answer the question "Who am I?"
5. List some things you do that make you who you are.