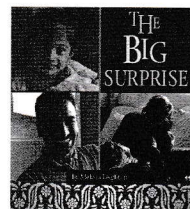


The Big Surprise

by Melissa Leighton



Book Summary

This is the story of two little girls awaiting the arrival of a new baby in their family and their surprise when they discover that their mum has had twins.

Features of the Book

- The final “y” consonant – “lovely”, “baby”, and “ready”.
- The use of the contractive apostrophe – “I’m”, “I’ll”, “it’s”, and “she’s”.
- The use of direct speech.
- The use of italics for emphasis.
- The use of bold type for effect.
- The visual interest in the photographs.

Purpose

The Big Surprise can be used in a guided reading setting to introduce and reinforce the following skills and strategies:

- S** encouraging prediction and developing questioning skills;
- S** discussing new vocabulary and extending understanding;
- S** recognising and reading a variety of different word patterns, including word endings;
- S** developing the skill of writing in a sequential manner.

Introducing the text

Begin the opening discussion by reading the title and the other cover text.

– *What do you think the big surprise could be?*

Encourage the children to share any surprises that they may have had and to talk about any experiences of a birth of a baby in their families. Introduce the names Neela and Hersha.

Reading the text

- S** Encouraging prediction and developing questioning skills.

- S** Discussing new vocabulary and extending understanding.

- S** Recognising and reading a variety of different word patterns, including word endings.

Title page – Discuss the expressions on the girls’ faces.

Pages 2 and 3

– *Where is their mum going?*

Pages 4 and 5

– *What is Neela asking Mum?*

– *What does Mum say?*

Pages 6 and 7

– *What are Neela and Mum doing here?*

– *Why is Mum packing a bag?*

Pages 8 and 9

– *Who will look after Neela? Where is Hersha?*

Pages 10 and 11

– *Who is calling Grandma? What do you think has happened?*

Pages 12 and 13

– *Why are the girls in a hurry?*

– *What was the surprise?*

Pages 14 to 16 – Read to confirm predictions.

– *Was that a surprise for you, too?*

The children now read the book independently.

Revisiting the text

Talk about the way that the author has written the book so that the surprise is at the very end.


– *Did you think the first baby was the big surprise?*

Together with the group, list some other words that end with “y” as the last syllable.

Discuss the use of the apostrophe throughout the story and the use of italics and bold type for effect.

Following Up

- S** Developing the skill of writing in a sequential manner.

 Using a sequence-of-events chart, the children could write sentences to retell the story.

- E** Complete the blackline master opposite.