

Heather's Story

by Anna Kenna

Summary

Heather's life changed forever when she was badly burned in a fire as a child. The story and photographs recount her recovery and show her amazing attitude toward life.

Features of the Text

- Biography
- Report
- Photographs and illustrations
- Contents page, glossary, index
- Headings
- Fact boxes

Purpose

Heather's Story can be used to introduce and reinforce the following skills:

- S** synthesizing information from the text and graphic features;
- S** making personal connections with the text.

The Guided Reading Lesson

- S** Synthesizing information from the text and graphic features
- S** Making personal connections with the text

Introducing the text

Look at the photographs in the text. Encourage the students to discuss their reactions to them.

- *How do the photographs make you feel? Why?*
- *What information do they give you about the story?*
- *Which photograph affected you the most? Why?*

Reading and discussing the text

Ask the students to read to the end of page 4. Discuss the events before and after the explosion.

- *How do you think Jason felt after the accident?*
- *What would you have done if you were Jason?*

Discuss the procedure for putting out a fire.

Ask the students to read to the end of page 7. Discuss how they would have felt seeing Heather looking like this.

- *What were the signs that she was a fighter?*

The students can now read to the end of page 10 to find out how Heather felt when she saw her face for the first time after the accident.

- *How do you think Heather will cope when she returns to school?*
- *How would you react if Heather was in your class?*

Discuss the process of rebuilding Heather's face, focusing on the way she felt during each stage.

Ask the students to read the rest of the text.

- *What kinds of things did Heather have to deal with once her face was rebuilt?*
- *Why do you think she decided to become a teacher?*
- *What kind of person is Heather?*



Following Up

The students can:

- use the blackline master on page 57 to describe their feelings about the story
- write a short poem, such as an acrostic poem, to describe Heather's character
- list the stages of Heather's recovery.