Behind the Scenes

by Susan Paris

Summary

Carla has just starred in a blockbuster movie, but her success has a big downside when her schoolmates react negatively. It all becomes worse when she is asked to be in the school play.

Features of the Text

- Realistic fiction
- First-person narrative
- Direct speech
- Narrative text that includes orientation, problem, climax, and resolution

Purpose

Behind the Scenes can be used for the following purposes:

- introducing the ideas and vocabulary in the associated nonfiction title;
- making inferences to identify character traits;
- drawing conclusions.

Guided Reading Summary

Introducing the text

Ask the students to think of a time when they felt isolated or ignored. Explain that, as they read this story, they will need to use their own experiences to make inferences and understand the characters.

Reading and discussing the text

Ask the students to read to the end of page 4.

– How do you think Carla is feeling? Why?
– What do you think the other students are saying about Carla? Why are they doing this?

Explain that these questions are not answered directly in the text.

Ask the students to read to the end of page 9.

– Why do you think Carla was having trouble with her acting?
– What can you infer about the other students' behavior?

Discuss the students' inferences. Explain how these will help them to draw conclusions about the characters.

– From what you know about Carla, how do you think she will resolve this issue?

The students can read to the end of the story.

– Do you think this will be the end of Carla's problems?

Following Up

The students can:
- use the blackline master on page 19 to identify traits of the main characters • rewrite the story from Marco's perspective • describe a dream that they have and design an action plan on how to achieve it.