

Billie B Brown: The Extra-special Helper

Learning outcomes

Students will:

Engage with the characters

Explore the concept of responsibility and the positive and negative things it entails

Develop letter-writing skills

Identify and discuss a range of emotions and how they are conveyed

Consider the qualities and actions that epitomize a good friend

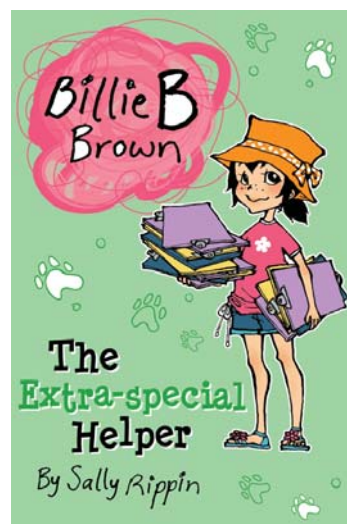
About the story

Billie and her class are off on an excursion to the zoo. Billie is especially excited because she has been chosen to be Ms Walton's extra-special helper. Billie really wants to do a good job but she soon learns that having such an important responsibility is not as easy or as enjoyable as she thought! However, when Billie gets lost, she wishes for an extra-special helper of her own.

Before you read the story

Read the title of the story to the group. Now invite students to discuss the picture above the title and ask: What extra-special job might Billie have in this story?

Now turn to the back cover and read the blurb aloud. Ask: What would an extra-special helper do on an excursion to the zoo?



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Questions and activities

Chapter One

How does Billie feel about being an extra-special helper? Is there any job that you have done that has made you feel this proud?

Billie usually sits with her best friend, Jack. Why wasn't she sitting with Jack on the bus?

What is Billie's first task as Ms Walton's extra-special helper?

When Billie asks the boys to stop being so noisy, Benny and Sam look at Jack. Why do you think they do this?

Activity

In this story, the B in Billie B Brown stands for Bossy. Take the first letter of your middle name and give yourself a new middle name. Write it down along with a short explanation about why you have chosen this new name.

Chapter Two

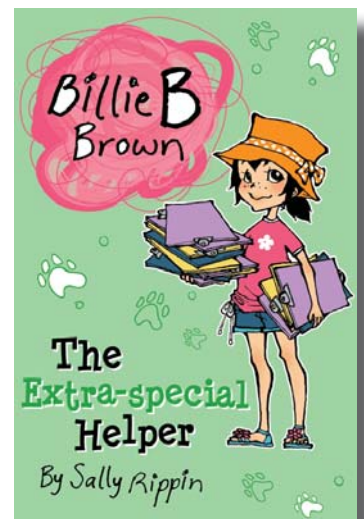
Look at the illustration on page 14. How do you think Jack feels about Billie's instruction about the clipboards? Why do you think he feels this way?

What makes Billie feel a teensy bit jealous? Have you ever felt jealous? Write about a time when you have felt this way.

'Billy scrunches up her forehead.' What does this tell you about Billy's feelings? What makes her feel this way?

Activity

Billy's job as Ms Walton's extra-special helper makes her feel very important. Can you describe something you have done that has made you feel very important?



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Chapter Three

What does Billie notice at the monkey enclosure? What does she think about this?

Billie almost forgets to do her very important job. What distracts Billie?

'Billie feels all jumbled up inside.' What does this mean and why do you think that Billie feels this way?

Activity

Silly, happy, jumbled up, cross – these are some of the feelings that Billie and Jack feel during this part of the story. Write down each feeling and write a short sentence about a time you have felt this way.

Chapter Four

Billie has been left behind! How did Billie become lost?

Just when Billie feels that she is going to cry, a face appears. Who does the face belong to?

When Jack finds Billie he says, 'Come on. You're holding everyone up!' This makes Billie blush. Why?

Earlier in the story, Jack called Billie bossy and acted very cross with her. How does he feel now? Does he really think that Billie is bossy?

'I think I need my own extra-special helper.' Why does Billy think this?

Activity

Best friends help each other when they get stuck. What are some other things best friends do for each other? List your ideas. Now write a letter to one of your best friends thanking them for some of the important things they do for you.

