

Class Notes for "The Doorway"

Summary of the Story: "The Doorway" is a touching story about a little raccoon named Chester who is hesitant about going to school for the first time. He expresses his fears and desire to stay home with his mother, Ms. Raccoon. To comfort him, Ms. Raccoon shares a special secret called "The Kissing Hand." This secret helps Chester feel loved and secure even when he is away from home.

Key Points:

1. Chester's Hesitation:

- Chester doesn't want to go to school. He wants to stay home and enjoy his familiar surroundings.
- He lists the activities he loves to do at home, like playing with his toys and friends, and reading books.

2. Ms. Raccoon's Comfort:

- Ms. Raccoon tells Chester that everyone sometimes has to do things they don't want to do.
- She reassures him that he will make new friends and enjoy new experiences at school.

3. The Kissing Hand Secret:

- Ms. Raccoon kisses the center of Chester's palm, telling him that whenever he feels lonely, he can press his hand to his cheek and feel her love.
- This gives Chester the comfort and courage he needs to face his first day of school.

4. Chester's Response:

- Chester is comforted and feels his mother's love.
- He reciprocates by giving his mother a kissing hand too, ensuring that they both have a token of each other's love.

Themes:

- Overcoming Fear
- Parental Love and Support
- Coping with New Experiences

Vocabulary:

- Hesitant
- Nuzzled
- Cozy
- Scamper
- Tingle

Question and Answers for "The Doorway"

1. Why doesn't Chester want to go to school?

- Chester doesn't want to go to school because he prefers to stay home with his mother and play with his friends and toys. He is comfortable with his current routine and feels scared about the new environment.

2. If you were in Chester's place, what would you do?

- (Students' personal responses; encourage them to share their thoughts and feelings about starting something new and how they would cope with it.)

3. What is the "Kissing Hand" and how does it help Chester?

- The "Kissing Hand" is a special secret where Ms. Raccoon kisses the center of Chester's palm. This kiss provides Chester with comfort and warmth whenever he feels lonely or scared at school. He can press his hand to his cheek to feel his mother's love.

4. How did Chester feel when he kissed his mother's hand?

- Chester felt loved and reassured. He grinned and felt confident to face his first day at school, knowing his mother's love would always be with him.

5. Who are the main characters in the story?

- The main characters in the story are Chester Raccoon and Ms. Raccoon.

6. Which part of the story do you like the most? Why?

- (Students' personal responses; encourage them to explain their favorite part and the reason behind it.)

7. How did Ms. Raccoon help Chester overcome his fear?

- Ms. Raccoon helped Chester overcome his fear by sharing the secret of the Kissing Hand. This gesture made him feel loved and secure, easing his worries about going to school.

8. How did Ms. Raccoon feel when she pressed her hand to her cheek?

- Ms. Raccoon felt the warmth of Chester's kiss and the special words, "Chester loves you," filled her heart with love and comfort.

Homework:

- Write a short paragraph about a time when you were scared to start something new and how you overcame your fear. Use the story of Chester and the Kissing Hand as inspiration.
- Draw a picture of a scene from the story that you liked the most and explain why you chose it.

These notes and questions will help students better understand and connect with the story "The Doorway," while also encouraging them to reflect on their own experiences and emotions.