

SECOND GRADE READING ADVENTURE: THE OLD WOMAN WHO NAMED THINGS

This week, our second graders are diving into the touching story *The Old Woman Who Named Things* as we explore the theme of problems and solutions in literature. Through guided reading, discussion, and hands-on activities, students are learning how characters face challenges and how those challenges are resolved. For example, the old woman in the story names all of her belongings but hesitates to name the stray puppy—revealing her fear of loss and loneliness. By the end of the week, students will draw connections between the woman's decision to name the puppy and the joy of finding companionship.

Each day builds on the story in a different way. On Monday, we identified the problem and discussed why the old woman didn't name the dog. Tuesday brought thoughtful, open-ended book questions that encouraged students to think deeply about the characters' choices. On Wednesday, we read a connecting text that highlighted the importance of animals as companions, strengthening the link between literature and real life. By Thursday, students will respond creatively with an art project—illustrating their own version of the dog while answering the question, "Why are animals helpful?"

This unit beautifully highlights Guided Experiences, as students are supported step by step in identifying problems and solutions while engaging in read-alouds, reenactments, and discussions. It also emphasizes Heart Check, encouraging reflection on courage, kindness, and friendship. Just as the old woman opened her heart to the puppy, our students are learning how to open their hearts to others, showing bravery and compassion in their own lives.

