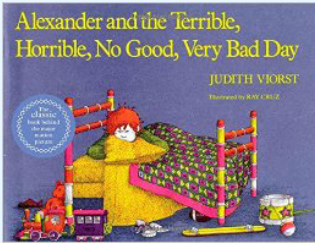


Alexander and the Terrible Horrible No Good Very Bad Day



AUTHOR Judith Viorst
EDITION 2nd
COPYRIGHT 1972, 2nd edition 1987
LA BOOKSHELF JC093
VOICETEXT Yes
LEXILE LEVEL AD970L
GRADE EQUIVALENT 3–4

OVERVIEW

Alexander is having a terrible, horrible, no good, very bad day. He starts his day off with gum in his hair, and his day only gets worse. We follow Alexander through the terrible events of his horrible day: at school his former best friend declares Alexander is now this third best friend, he finds out he has a cavity at the dentist and he makes a mess of his dad's office. At the end of his day, wearing pajamas he hates, his mother gives him some comforting words of wisdom.

SUGGESTED GRAPHIC ORGANIZERS

- Major Events Summary
- Vocabulary Graphic Organizer
- Venn diagram
- Outline of events

AUTHOR INFORMATION

- Born and raised in New Jersey
- Based Alexander and his brothers on her own sons
- Also writes poetry and science books
- The sequels are:
Alexander, Who Used to Be Rich Last Sunday
Alexander, Who is No (Do You Hear ME? I Mean It!)
Alexander, Who's Trying His Best to Be the Best Boy Ever

BACKGROUND KNOWLEDGE REQUIRED

Relationships with siblings, friends
 Life as a school aged child in the US:
 What is a carpool, school setting, dentist office visit
 Location of Australia, location of the US

WRITING PROMPTS

- I felt really sad when _____.
 However, I felt better after I _____.
- Think of a time when someone you knew was sad or having a bad day. Did you do something to help them feel better? Tell us what happened to that person and why they now are ok or feeling better.

- If you saw Alexander in the middle of his bad day, what would you do to make him feel better? What advice would you give Alexander?
- Why does Alexander say he wants to move to Australia? Do you think that's a good idea?

LITERARY DEVICES

- Point of view
- Conflict
- Foreshadowing
- Mood

SUPPORTING MEDIA (graphic novels, movies, video clips)

- Animated movie (1990)
www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ezbssw11724
- Disney movie trailer (2014):
www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z_dideF5qvK

COMMON CORE BIG IDEAS

- Author study
- Character study
- Compare/contrast two characters from the story
- Integration of knowledge and ideas gained from the text

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WAYS TO HELP DIVERSE LEARNERS

- Prepare through reading excerpts and video clips to supply background knowledge
- Watch the movie trailer
- Teacher verbally reads the book while students follow along
- Students with print disabilities can read via the audio version
- Allow students to use a scribe or assistive technology for writing prompt response

RESOURCES

Movie trailer:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z_dideF5qvk

<http://authors.simonandschuster.com/Judith-Viorst/707395>

Short animated movie:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ezbssw11724

www.scholastic.com/teachers/book/alexander-and-terrible-horrible-no-good-very-bad-day#cart/cleanup