



The Sandwich Swap

by Kelly Dipucchio

Why This Book Matters

The Sandwich Swap helps students understand that comprehension goes beyond decoding words—it requires interpreting language, perspective, and meaning. The story highlights how misunderstandings develop and are resolved, making it an ideal text for teaching students how language choices, assumptions, and background knowledge influence understanding.

Comprehension Focus

- Perspective-taking
- Cause and effect
- Making inferences using text and illustrations
- Understanding how language communicates feelings and ideas

Before Reading

- Show the cover and ask: What do you notice about the characters? What do you think this story might be about?
- Briefly discuss that people can have different preferences and ideas, and misunderstandings can happen when we don't understand one another.
- Introduce key vocabulary as needed (e.g., misunderstanding, opinion, perspective).

During Reading

Pause strategically to support active thinking:

- What does each character believe right now?
- What clues do the words or pictures give us about how the characters feel?
- How is this small disagreement growing into a bigger problem?

Encourage students to explain their thinking using evidence from the text and illustrations.

After Reading

Guide students in reflecting on meaning:

- What caused the conflict in the story?
- How was the problem resolved?
- What could the characters have done differently to avoid the misunderstanding?

Have students turn and talk before sharing to support oral language development.

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Extension Activity

Students may:

- Retell the story from one character's perspective
- Draw and label a scene showing how the misunderstanding grew or changed
- Write or dictate a sentence explaining how the characters solved the problem

These activities reinforce comprehension by requiring students to apply language and thinking beyond the read-aloud.

Teacher Reflection

Did students use evidence from the text or illustrations when explaining their thinking?

Were students able to identify misunderstandings and explain how they developed?

How did discussion support deeper comprehension of the story?

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