



Baby Elephant

READ ALOUD GUIDE

Themes: Family, Imagination, New Siblings, Humor

Book Brief: A humorous story about Tilly, who gets confused when her mom says she has a baby in her belly and prepares for a very unexpected arrival!

Author:
Christine Kelly

Illustrator:
Roisin Haheesy

BEFORE READING

The Cover: Ask students to make a prediction about the story based on the cover and title.

The Pictures: Take a quick picture walk and ask students what they notice about the illustrations.

Prior Knowledge: Ask, "Have you ever misunderstood something someone said? What happened?" (Optional: Think-Pair-Share)

Vocabulary: Frontload Tier 2 words using the accompanying [Vocabulary Guide](#).

Purpose for Reading: "As we read, think about the message or lesson of this story. What can we learn from Tilly's funny misunderstanding?"

DURING READING

Check for understanding & make connections:

- What does Tilly think is in her mom's belly?
- Why does Tilly prepare the shed with straw?
- What does Tilly's mom actually bring home?
- How does Tilly feel when she sees the twins?



Think Aloud: "I'm noticing that even though Tilly was confused and prepared for the wrong thing, she's still happy when her twin siblings arrive. The message seems to be that even when things don't turn out as we expected, they can still be wonderful."

AFTER READING

Our Purpose: "What did Tilly learn? How did she feel about the real surprise?"

Extending Our Thinking: Ask students, "Have you ever gotten a surprise? How did you feel?" Encourage students to draw two pictures: on one side, show what Tilly thought was coming (baby elephant), and on the other side, show what actually came (twins). Students can show their drawings, talk about their pictures, and share their own experiences.

If your students enjoyed this book...

- Explore 100 other free eBooks on Skybrary! Visit www.Skybrary.org to learn more.
- Encourage them to continue to discuss it and refer to it in other lessons and conversations.
- Let them explore more about the topic by reading other books with similar themes, structure, characters, or content.