



Last Day Blues

READ ALOUD GUIDE

Themes: Kindness, Friendship, Summer Vacation

Book Brief: A sweet and funny story about students who worry their teacher will be sad during summer break and discover that teachers have exciting summer plans too!

Author:
Julie Danneberg

Illustrator:
Judy Love

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, “How do you feel when the school year ends? What do you think teachers do during summer break?” (Think-Pair-Share)

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

Purpose for Reading: “As we read, pay attention to how Mrs. Hartwell sees the end of the school year compared to how her students see it.”

DURING READING

Check for understanding & make connections:

- How do the students feel about summer break starting?
- Why do the students worry about Mrs. Hartwell?
- What do the students plan to do to cheer up Mrs. Hartwell?
- What do the students discover about Mrs. Hartwell’s summer plans?
- How are the students’ feelings and Mrs. Hartwell’s feelings similar and different?



Think Aloud: “The students think Mrs. Hartwell will be sad and lonely without them, but she’s actually excited about her own summer plans! Their perspective is that teachers will miss them, but Mrs. Hartwell’s perspective shows teachers look forward to summer too.”

AFTER READING

Our Purpose: “How did the students’ point of view about Mrs. Hartwell’s summer differ from what was really happening?”

Extending Our Thinking: Ask students, “What will you remember most about this school year? What will you miss?” Have students complete a simple reflection (favorite moment, something they learned, a friend they made, something they’re proud of) and share during a class celebration or circle time.

If your students enjoyed this book...

- 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.
- Explore other books on Skybrary!