

Anna & Natalie



A RIF GUIDE FOR EDUCATORS

Themes: Overcoming Challenges, Service, Responsibility, People with Disabilities

Grade Level: 1st to 3rd grade

Book Brief: Anna is determined to win the honor of laying the wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington, Virginia.

Author:
Barbara H. Cole

Illustrator:
Ronald Himler

Content

Connections: Math, Social Studies



TIME TO READ!

BEFORE WE READ, LET'S LOOK AT...

The Cover: Have students make predictions about

the text based on the front cover illustration and title. Who are the two children on the front? Are they Anna and Natalie? Is there anyone else on the cover?

The Pictures: For younger students, take a brief picture walk. What do the pictures show? After you've read the book once, go back through the pictures and let the students look for clues that Anna is blind and Natalie is her guide dog.

Prior Knowledge: Find out what students know about the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. Have any of them ever been? Explain that the tomb is a monument to all fallen American soldiers.

Vocabulary: wreath, ceremony, tomb, monument

Purpose for Reading: Set the following purpose: "As we read today, think about why it's so important to Anna that she's a part of the wreath laying ceremony."



WHILE WE READ



MONITORING COMPREHENSION

- ◆ What is the wreath laying ceremony?
- ◆ Why are the students writing letters?

- ◆ Why isn't Anna ever picked for any teams?
- ◆ Why do you think Anna wants to lay the wreath so badly? What do you think her plan is?
- ◆ Why does the teacher get tears in her eyes when she reads Anna's letter?
- ◆ Who is Natalie?

LET'S THINK ABOUT

Our Purpose: Revisit the purpose: "Why did Anna want to help lay the wreath? What do we know about Natalie's family history that helps us understand Anna's wish?"

Extending Our Thinking: This story has a surprise "twist" ending. Ask your students if they figured out who Natalie was before the end of the book. If so, how? If not, why were they fooled? Flip back through the text and ask students to help you find clues about Anna's disability and Natalie's true identity.

NOTE TO EDUCATORS

- ◆ Extension Activities for Educators also available.
- ◆ Vocabulary Scaffolding Sheet also available.