



School-Home Connection

Our class is currently reading “The Best School Year Ever” by Barbara Robinson. In this humorous story, a sixth-grader named Beth struggles with her class assignment. Each class member has to list compliments for a classmate whose name is drawn from a hat. Beth draws Imogene Herdman, who along with her brothers and sisters are described as “the worst kids in the history of the world.” Beth manages to think of truthful yet pleasing compliments. She discovers in the process that there is more to Imogene than she first thought. Ask your child to explain the story in more detail and tell you what compliments Imogene and Beth receive. You might also want to work with your child on one or more of the following activities.

Character Comparison

Ask your child to choose a character from the story who is like someone he or she actually knows. Have your child list ways in which these two people are alike as well as ways in which they are different. Discuss the list with your child.

Vocabulary

Story Retelling

Your child has learned this vocabulary while reading “The Best School Year Ever”:

compliment	quality
resourceful	enterprising
inventive	shrewd

Have your child write these words on separate pieces of paper. Then challenge your child to tell you what happens in the story, using each vocabulary word at least once.



TIME TO READ

Encourage your child to read for at least 30 minutes outside of class each day.

Rereading

What part of “The Best School Year Ever” made your child laugh out loud? Have your child find and read aloud this part of the story. Encourage him or her to read carefully and with good expression. Afterward, discuss the humor in the passage and humor in general. What books has your child laughed at? What books have you read that made you laugh?

