



Reading Roundup



A Chair for My Mother

Written and Illustrated by
Vera B. Williams

Reading Roundup
Partners



Introduction

Gather the students around you so that they are able to see the illustrations of the book. Most classrooms will have an area rug defining this space. Introduce yourself and tell the students that you are excited to share [A Chair for My Mother](#), written and illustrated by Vera B. Williams.

Before Reading

P - *Think about a time you worked as a class, a team, or a family to get something done.* If an example from your own life comes to mind, consider sharing your own story before inviting students to share. [A Chair for My Mother](#) is the story of a young girl and her family who work together to solve problems. *Let's read together to learn about how they take care of each other.*

During Reading

- Begin reading the book by starting on the title page. Hold the book so that students are able to see the illustrations. Give plenty of time for students to “read” and think about the pictures. Continue to read through page 9.

- **Pages 8-9** *Look at the illustration. I'm wondering why Mama would fall asleep at the kitchen table and why she would take off her shoes like that.* If students offer suggestions, acknowledge them, but it's fine for students to have a moment to ponder without responding. Continue reading through page 15.

- **Page 15** *The fire really changed the mood of the story.* Turn back one page.

- **Page 12** *Notice the characters walking in their brand-new shoes and admiring the tulips.*

- **Page 14** *Notice how the characters' feelings suddenly change. – T/T - Look at the illustration of the day of the fire. Turn and talk to your partner about what you notice about the characters? How does the illustration tell us that Mama is in a hurry? (Mama is pulling the girl. She took off her shoes so she could run faster. She is yelling and pointing to the apartment.)*

- Continue reading the rest of the story making sure students have time to “read” the illustrations.



After Reading

- *The challenge the young girl and her family faced was saving enough money to buy Mama a new chair. It took a long time to save the money. But there was another problem before that when all their things burned in a fire. Let's go back in the book to think about how the characters worked together to solve the problem.*

Turn back to pages 18-19.

- **Pages 18-19 – T/T -** *We know that the family stayed with Aunt Ida and Uncle Sandy until they were able to move into an apartment. Look at the picture and think about who is helping Mama and her family. Have you ever helped someone like this? Has someone helped you when you needed help? Turn and talk to your partner.* Reread pages 18-19 if needed. (Neighbors brought pizza, cake, and ice cream. Neighbors also brought a table and three kitchen chairs....)

Remember to help others. When we see someone hurting or needing help, it is always important to stop and ask ourselves what we can do to make things better.

Vocabulary

Tip – small amount of money given to someone who does a good job p.7

Bargain – a low price p.9

Sandals, Pumps – types of shoes p.13 (illustration p.8)

Tulips – type of flower p.13

Spoiled - ruined p. 15

Exchanged - traded p. 23

**WORD
WAGON**