

Reading Roundup

The Most Magnificent Thing

Written and Illustrated
by Ashley Spires

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 The Most Magnificent Thing, written and illustrated by Ashley Spires.

Before Reading

Have you ever wanted to do or create something that is truly magnificent – something that is so great that you don't even know how to start? Think about a time when you had a magnificent idea and wanted to make the dream come true. Let's read together to learn about a young girl who dreamed of making the most magnificent thing and what she does to be successful.

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 5.
- **Page 5** - *The girl in the story hires an assistant (helper) to help her make something magnificent.* – **P** - *Why do you think she hires her dog as an assistant?* (She probably hired the dog because they are best friends and do everything together. They trust each other.) Continue reading through page 7.
- **Page 7 T/T** - *Look carefully at the illustration. I'm wondering why the author writes, "...somewhere out of the way...." Are the girl and her assistant out of the way? Turn and talk to your partner.* (The girl and her assistant plop right down in the middle of the sidewalk. Maybe they are so excited about this adventure that they don't even notice.) *Think about what we might learn about the character by looking at the picture. Continue reading through page 11.*
- **Page 11** - *Look at the expression on the girl's face.* – **P** - *How has her expression changed from page 9?* (At first, she was surprised the thing wasn't magnificent, but now she's furious.) Re-read "She decides to try again." Continue reading through page 17.
- **Page 17** *The author writes, "Her hard work attracts some admirers." Admirers are people who look at something and really love it.* – **T/T** - *Do the people look like they're admiring the girl's work? How does the illustration help you decide? Turn and talk to your partner.* (No, the people don't admire it. The expressions on the people's faces tell us they aren't happy with the mess the girl has made on the sidewalk.) This is a technique the illustrator repeats. You may want to refer back to pages 6-7.
- *Continue reading the rest of the story making sure students have time to "read" the illustrations, thinking about how the character changes over time.*

After Reading

- *One-way authors write interesting stories with interesting characters to show how the character changes over time. Let's think about how the girl's feelings changed during the story. In the beginning, she was very excited because she had an idea about making a magnificent thing.*
 - **Turn to page 11,** - **P** - *Do you remember when the girl's feelings began to change?* (Yes, she started getting frustrated and mad, but she kept trying.)
 - **Turn to page 19-** *The character's feelings changed again. Now, she's furious; she's **really** upset.*
 - **Turn to page 21-** *This is not her finest moment. The author uses the word "EXPLODES."* – **T/T** – *What is happening here? How does the picture help us understand the word "explodes?" Turn and talk to your partner.* The word "explodes" probably means she had a temper tantrum. She looked like she was blowing up like a bomb.)
 - **Turn to pages 22-23,** - **P** - *Feelings keep changing. After exploding, how does the girl feel?* (She's tired and ready to quit.)
 - If the class has experienced the read-aloud *The Rabbit Listened*, ask children to compare the rabbit and the dog from this story. (Both animals were loyal and stayed close while the characters were upset.)
- Remember,** having a magnificent idea is a wonderful thing. It's okay to get frustrated and angry along the way. The most important thing, the most magnificent thing, is to never give up.

Vocabulary

Assistant – helper p. 5

Tinker/Fiddle – mess with, try to fix p. 8, 10

Tweak – make better p. 13

Pummel – beat up p. 18

Distractions – interruptions p. 28

**WORD
WAGON**

