

A Balloon for Isabel

A RIF GUIDE FOR EDUCATORS

Themes: Problem Solving, Scientific Method, Perseverance

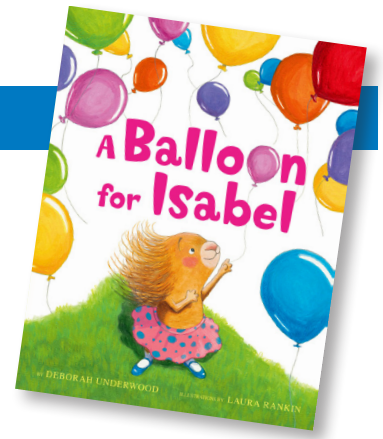
Book Brief: A porcupine on a mission, Isabel wants a balloon at her graduation just like her classmates will have. She and her friend Walter experiment until they find a way to keep porcupines'

balloons from popping!

Author: Deborah Underwood

Illustrator: Laura Rankin

Content Connections: Science



TIME TO READ!



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

The Cover: What inferences can you make from looking at the cover illustration?

The Pictures: Show students the picture of Isabel and Walter with the pillows and bubble wrap. Ask, "What do you think the problem of this story might be?"

Prior Knowledge: Introduce the steps for problem solving: identify problem, brainstorm or explore ideas, test or experiment with the ideas, and evaluate.

Vocabulary: innovation, quill, trial and error

Purpose for Reading:

"As we read, think about how Isabel used problem-solving strategies and what you learned from her example."



WHILE WE READ



MONITORING COMPREHENSION

◆ How old do you think Walter and Isabel are?

- ◆ How are Isabel and Walter using visual images in this story?
- ◆ Do you think Ms. Quill has any prior experience with balloons? Explain.
- ◆ What can you infer about Isabel's personality?

LET'S THINK ABOUT

Our Purpose: "How did Isabel use the process of problem-solving to get all the porcupines balloons?"

Extending Our Thinking: Ask these open-ended questions: Is there a better solution to Isabel's problem? What was your favorite experiment that did NOT work? Why do you think Isabel and Walter wanted balloons so badly? What are the pros and cons of using the gumdrops? Explain. What can you learn from Isabel's experience?

NOTE TO EDUCATORS

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



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