

junie b. jones®

Is (almost) a Flower Girl



Grades 1-4
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Pre-Reading Activities

This teacher-led activity will allow students to preview major elements of the story before they read to enhance comprehension. Before reading, skim the book and select words from the story that fall into the following categories: setting, characters, problem, and solution. In no particular order, write these words on the whiteboard, overhead, or chart paper. Next, draw four large headers on the board and label them setting, characters, problem, and solution. Walk the students through the process of assigning the words you selected from the story into each of these four categories. Some will be much easier than others, but ultimately after all the words are sorted, students will have a solid preview of what is to come in the story.

Junie B. is a very grown-up little lady. So how come everyone treats her like a baby? It's not fair. But she knows just how to fix the situation. Her aunt Flo is getting married. What a perfect chance for Junie B. to show everyone how grown-up she is! Too bad she wasn't picked to be the flower girl in the wedding so she could really show off. But surely Junie B. can still find *some way* to get everyone's attention. . . .

In this guide to *Junie B. Jones Is (almost) a Flower Girl*, students will preview major story elements before reading in a teacher-led group activity. After reading, students will engage in a characterization activity in which they practice writing a dramatic monologue based on a major plot point in the story.

Dramatic Junie B.

In this story, Junie B. struggles when she is not the center of attention at her aunt Flo's wedding. Alternate flower girl seems like an okay position . . . until Bo begins walking down the aisle with her pretty pink flower petals, and Junie B. decides to take matters into her own hands—literally. Have students write a monologue in which they describe what is going on in Junie B.'s mind during the fateful moment at the wedding when she gets into a tussle with Bo. Be sure to explain to your students that a monologue is like a speech that comes from Junie B.'s perspective. After students write and revise their monologues, see if any brave volunteers would like to perform their monologues for the class. Extra points for dramatic renditions! Although this activity is fun and creative, it assesses students' ability to characterize Junie B. and describe how she responds to major events and challenges.

