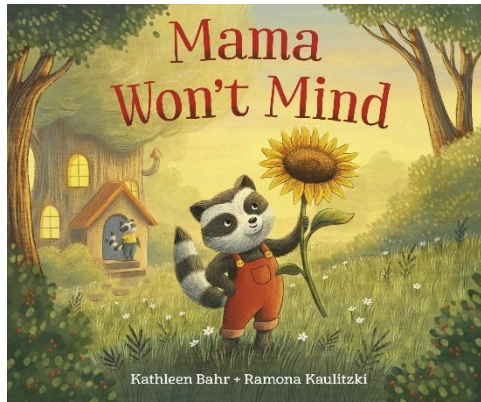


MAMA WON'T MIND

Discussion & Activity Guide for Teachers, Librarians, and Parents



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Mama Won't Mind by Kathleen Bahr & Ramona Kaulitzki (Knopf Books for Young Readers, 2026)

Book Description:

Join a young raccoon on his journey to find the perfect gift for Mama in this timeless tale with stunning art from a *New York Times* bestselling illustrator.

Henry picks Mama's favorite flower for her birthday surprise. "A sunflower always makes Mama smile!" On his way home, Henry knows Mama won't mind when he shares little pieces of her sunflower with his friends—and when he uses her sunflower to solve unexpected problems. But then Henry has nothing left, so he comes up with an unusual present to give her instead. Will Mama mind?

With lyrical text, this gentle book celebrates a gift from the heart and the loving bond between mother and child.

Grade Level: Preschool – 2

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Pre-Reading:

1. Show the cover, and read the title. Explain that the story is about a young animal character named Henry.
 - What kind of animal is Henry? (*a raccoon*)
 - Who do you think is standing on the doorstep of the house?
 - Why do you think Henry is holding a sunflower?
2. Turn to the title page showing Henry and his calendar.
 - Why do you think Henry circled July 30?
 - Is it winter, spring, summer, or fall?

Reading the Book:

1. Encourage the children to guess what happens next.
2. Ask the children to repeat the sound words with you.
3. When Henry sees his friends, ask the children what kinds of animals they are.
(*a bird, a chipmunk, and a beaver*)
4. At various points, ask the children how they think Henry is feeling and why.

Post-Reading:

1. Show the birthday party celebration at the end.
 - Did Mama like Henry's gift? How do you know?
 - Why didn't Mama mind that Henry's gift wasn't a real sunflower?

- How do you think Henry felt when he saw his gift in a vase on the table?
- After the party, what do you think Henry and Mama did together?

ACTIVITIES

(The printable activity sheets are also included at the end of this guide.)

My Extra-Special Person — [Printable Activity Sheet](#)

Sunflower Fun — [Printable Activity Sheet](#)

Word Search — [Printable Activity Sheet](#)

Build-a-“Sunflower” Craft Activity

Description:

Using a variety of craft materials, children make a hodgepodge “sunflower” to give to someone extra special.

Supplies:

small white paper plates (uncoated) — one per child
jumbo craft sticks — one per child
heavy-duty tape (for adult use only)
a variety of craft materials (based on the age of the children)
crayons and markers
scissors
glue

Steps:

Before the activity, prepare a flower base for each child. Use heavy-duty tape to attach a jumbo craft stick to the back of a small white paper plate.

OPTIONAL: Have the children complete the activity sheet “My Extra-Special Person.” (See above for a link to the printable.)

1. Show the picture of Henry inspecting his sunflower creation for Mama.

Ask:

- What did Henry use to make the stalk? (*a stick*)
- What did Henry use to make the seeds? (*berries*)

- What did Henry use to make the petals? (*ferns*)
2. Explain that the children will be making their own sunflower creations to give to someone extra special—just like Henry did! Ask each child to share the name of their extra-special person.
 3. Show the children a flower base and the craft materials. Ask them to think of different ways to make/decorate the stalk, the seeds, and the petals.
 4. Pass out a flower base to each child.
 5. Provide crafting time. Encourage the children to experiment and talk about their ideas.
 6. If children finish early, ask them to make a card or write a note to go along with their sunflower creations.
 7. At the end of the session, invite the children to share their sunflower creations with the group.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- To learn more about Kathleen Bahr, visit kathleenbahr.com
- To learn more about Ramona Kaulitzki, visit ramonakaulitzkiart.com
- To purchase *Mama Won't Mind*, visit Knopf Books for Young Readers



Thank you for reading *Mama Won't Mind*!



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Name _____



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My Extra-Special Person

Mama is someone extra special to Henry. Think of someone who is extra special to YOU.

What is your favorite thing to do together?

Draw a picture to show it.

My extra-special person is _____.

My favorite thing to do together is _____.

Name _____



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Sunflower Fun

Henry turned Mama's sunflower into an umbrella, a fishing pole, and a paddle!

What would YOU turn Mama's sunflower into?

Draw a picture to show it.

I would turn Mama's sunflower into _____!

Name _____

MAMA WON'T MIND Word Search

O	M	A	M	A	R	A	S	T	A	R
F	I	S	H	I	N	G	P	O	L	E
E	N	T	O	C	A	P	L	G	O	V
R	P	A	D	D	L	E	A	I	L	U
N	E	L	W	H	O	T	S	F	S	M
S	T	K	C	A	B	A	H	T	E	B
E	N	S	U	N	F	L	O	W	E	R
T	S	T	I	C	K	S	A	M	D	E
B	I	R	T	H	D	A	Y	I	S	L
U	H	E	N	R	Y	D	H	N	I	L
B	E	R	R	I	E	S	E	D	R	A

Directions: Circle the words going across and down.

HENRY

MAMA

BIRTHDAY

GIFT

SUNFLOWER

PETALS

SEEDS

STALK

UMBRELLA

FISHING POLE

PADDLE

SPLASH

STICK

BERRIES

FERNS

MIND

MAMA WON'T MIND Word Search – Answer Key

O	M	A	M	A	R	A	S	T	A	R
F	I	S	H	I	N	G	P	O	L	E
E	N	T	O	C	A	P	L	G	O	V
R	P	A	D	D	L	E	A	I	L	U
N	E	L	W	H	O	T	S	F	S	M
S	T	K	C	A	B	A	H	T	E	B
E	N	S	U	N	F	L	O	W	E	R
T	S	T	I	C	K	S	A	M	D	E
B	I	R	T	H	D	A	Y	I	S	L
U	H	E	N	R	Y	D	H	N	I	L
B	E	R	R	I	E	S	E	D	R	A

Directions: Circle the words going across and down.

HENRY

MAMA

BIRTHDAY

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