



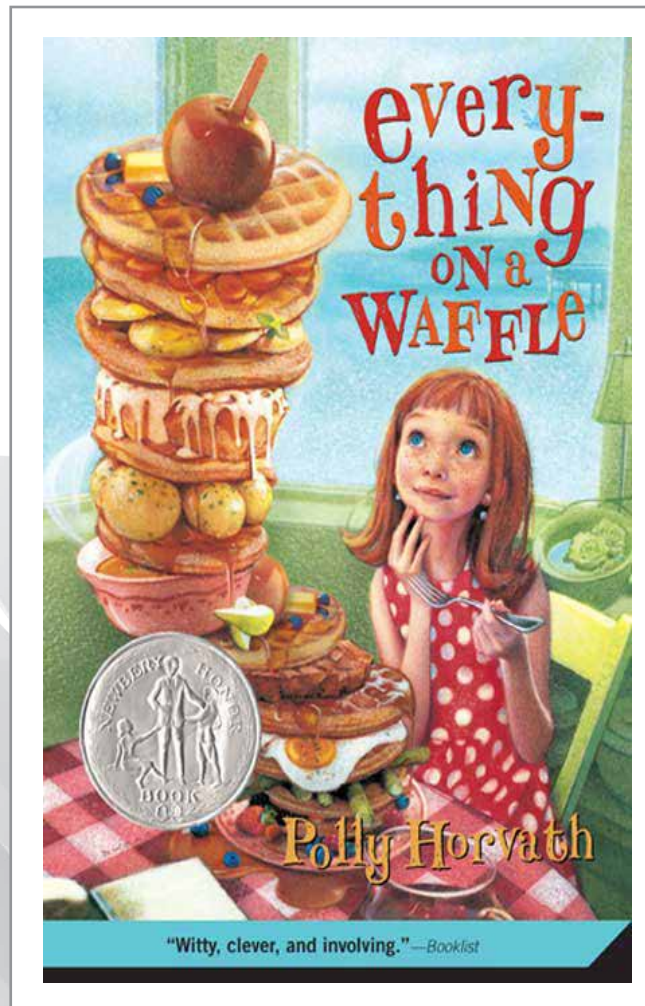
TEACHER GUIDE

GRADES 6-8

COMPREHENSIVE CURRICULUM BASED LESSON PLANS

Everything on a Waffle

Polly Horvath



READ, WRITE, THINK, DISCUSS AND CONNECT

Everything on a Waffle

Polly Horvath

TEACHER GUIDE

NOTE:

The trade book edition of the novel used to prepare this guide is found in the Novel Units catalog and on the Novel Units website. Using other editions may have varied page references.

Please note: We have assigned Interest Levels based on our knowledge of the themes and ideas of the books included in the Novel Units sets, however, please assess the appropriateness of this novel or trade book for the age level and maturity of your students prior to reading with them. You know your students best!

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Skills and Strategies

Thinking

Identifying attributes, research, compare/contrast, pros/cons, brainstorming, problem solving, creative thinking, conflict, critical thinking

Writing

Character journal, personal writing, creative writing, letter writing, acrostic poem, recipes

Listening/Speaking

Dramatizing, interviewing, storytelling, discussion, oral reports, taping, music

Comprehension

Predicting, sequencing, inference, anticipating

Vocabulary

Charades, word maps, synonyms, antonyms, defining, parts of speech, context clues

Literary Elements

Literary analysis, story mapping, plot development, setting, characterization

Across the curriculum

Social Studies—history; Science—animal research; Math—graphing
Art—diorama, collage, advertisements, comic strips, illustrations; Health—food preparation, first aid; Technology—brochures, Internet

Summary

Everything on a Waffle tells the story of Primrose Squarp, a young girl who suddenly becomes an orphan when her parents are lost at sea during a violent storm. Her Uncle Jack, a reluctant caretaker, agrees to take Primrose into his home. Although Primrose accepts Uncle Jack as her guardian, her true safe haven is with Miss Bowzer, the owner of a restaurant called The Girl on the Red Swing. Primrose learns how to make various foods served on a waffle while receiving sagacious advice from the proprietor. Primrose relates her unusual and colorful adventures, ranging from accidentally singeing a guinea pig's fur to losing her little toe, as she awaits the improbable return of her parents. Primrose is reunited with her mother and father even as she realizes her friends and new, extended family have helped her find peace and happiness in the little town of Coal Harbour.

About the Author

Polly Horvath has written numerous children's books. Her books include *The Happy Yellow Car*, *An Occasional Cow*, *When the Circus Came to Town*, and the National Book Award Finalist, *The Trolls*. Horvath resides in Metchosin, British Columbia.

Introductory Activities

1. **Previewing the Book:** Have students look at the cover and answer the journalist's questions about what they see: *Who? What? When? Where? and Why?* Based on their answers, students predict what the book will be about.
2. **Predict:** Given the following clues, students write a paragraph predicting what they think will happen in the story.

waffles parents faith recipes optimism
3. **Character Journal:** List the main characters from *Everything on a Waffle* and have students choose one. As they read the book, students write regular entries from that character's point of view. Journal entries should reflect on the events of the story. At various points in their reading, have students share their journals with classmates.
4. **Attribute Web:** Create an attribute web (see page 11 of this guide) with students for each of the following ideas: friends, anecdotes, bravery, true love, and coincidence. Ask students to brainstorm what each word brings to mind. Encourage students to elaborate on particular ideas.
5. **Prediction Chart:** Have students set up a prediction chart (see pages 7-8 of this guide) to use as they read the book.

6. Anticipation Questions: Have students respond to each of the following statements with a “thumbs up” (I agree) or a “thumbs down” (I disagree) and discuss their responses.

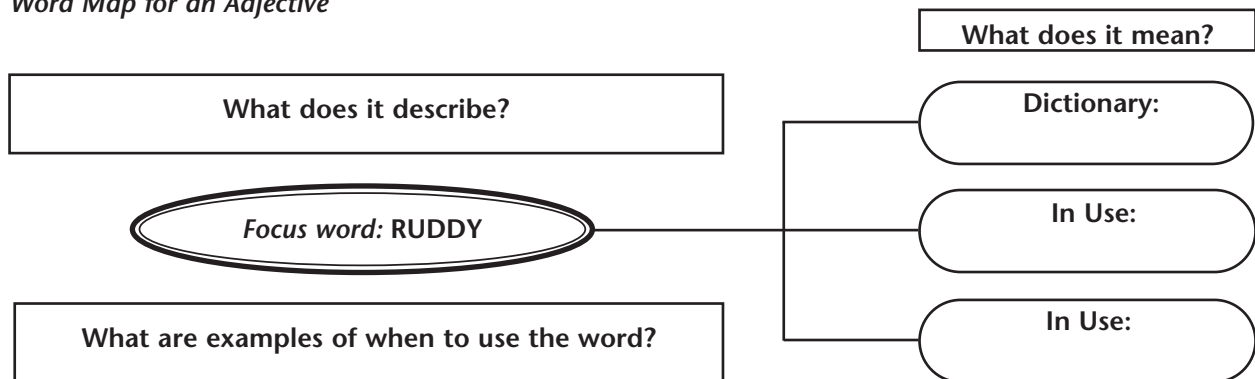
- Adults should be responsible for the children in their neighborhood.
- People show their grief in different ways.
- Friends should help and support each other.
- Children need to live in a loving and caring home.
- Love is shown in different ways.
- Some people have hidden agendas that do not benefit children.

Vocabulary Activities

1. Target Word Charades: Have students act out some of the vocabulary words as classmates guess the target word. Some suggested words for *Everything on a Waffle*: tussle (7), loitered (32), agile (42), gawking (90), guffawed (120).

2. Target Word Maps: Have students complete word maps for vocabulary words of a certain part of speech. For example, adjectives from *Everything on a Waffle* would include: ruddy (9), unflappable (25), shimmering (52), melancholy (59), subtle (100), and raspy (138).

Word Map for an Adjective



3. Sentences: Have students select five or six vocabulary words and use as many of the words as possible in one sentence.

4. Synonym Match: Have students select vocabulary words from a chapter and list one synonym for each vocabulary word on a small piece of paper. Students mix the pieces of paper and match each synonym to the appropriate vocabulary word.

5. Cook a Waffle Game: Cut waffle patterns from construction paper. The waffle patterns should be large enough to hold pictures of food. Place the waffles on round sheets of construction paper cut to resemble plates. Each student receives a plate and a waffle. Students should cut pictures of food out of magazines or draw pictures of food. A vocabulary word should be

My Parents Are Lost at Sea & I Move to Uncle Jack's

Vocabulary

perpendicular (3)	psychiatrist (6)	aristocracy (6)	anecdotes (7)
tussle (7)	dwindling (8)	reference (9)	drifter (9)
ruddy (9)	albeit (10)	imposition (11)	detached (12)
bereavement (14)	asparagus (14)	tics (15)	chaos (17)
forsaking (17)	pacifist (18)	peripheral (18)	edible (19)

Discussion Questions

1. Describe Primrose Squarp. *(She has always lived in Coal Harbour, British Columbia. She is eleven years old, has red hair, freckles, and gray eyes.)*
2. Why does Primrose's mother venture into the storm on a sailboat? *(She is worried about Primrose's father because he has not returned home in his fishing boat.)*
3. Why doesn't Primrose go to the memorial service for her parents? *(She is convinced they are still alive.)*
4. Why does Primrose visit the docks each morning to watch the boats come in? *(She is sure she will see her parents being towed in or perhaps on the back of a whale.)*
5. What does Primrose think is the symbolic meaning of the story of Jonah? *(She says, "...to me it is about how hopeful the human heart is.")*
6. Why does Primrose feel she cannot confide in Miss Perfidy? *(Miss Perfidy is always stalking off while Primrose is trying to talk to her.)*
7. Give examples of how Miss Perfidy is penny-pinching. *(She insists on being paid a baby-sitting fee for the hours of the day that Primrose is asleep. She dug up all the flowers when she moved to a smaller house, and she took all the light bulbs.)*
8. Why did Primrose's mother avoid Miss Honeycut? Why is the rest of the town nice to her? *(Mrs. Squarp thought Miss Honeycut was a bore. The rest of the town hope that Miss Honeycut will remember them in her will after she comes in to her vast inheritance.)*
9. Why does Miss Perfidy wear an old tweed suit to the town meeting? *(She thinks her "Queen of England getup" will give her the upper hand during the meeting.)*
10. Why does the town council want Primrose to live with Uncle Jack? *(He is the only relative they can locate and no one else in town is willing to take care of Primrose.)*
11. Describe how Primrose feels when Uncle Jack explains why he can't take care of her. *(She admires his honesty.)*
12. Why does Uncle Jack decide to take care of Primrose? *(He does it to spite Miss Honeycut.)*
13. Why does Primrose leave her sweaters at Miss Perfidy's house? *(She wants them to be moth-free.)*

14. What sends Primrose into a funny, detached, dreamlike state? (*having her things at three different houses and feeling like she doesn't live anywhere anymore*)
15. How does Primrose discover that Miss Honeycut has been counseling the other students about bereavement? (*A group of girls follow Primrose across the playground and question her about her mourning.*)
16. Why do you think Kate Bowzer rescues Primrose from the group of girls? (*Answers will vary.*)
17. Why does Miss Bowzer serve a waffle with every dish at The Girl on the Red Swing restaurant? (*She thinks it gives the restaurant class.*)
18. Why do you think Miss Bowzer becomes weepy as she talks about Primrose's parents? (*Answers will vary.*)
19. Why doesn't Primrose take Miss Bowzer's advice about using Uncle Jack to beat up the children who were taunting her? (*The idea is impractical, she doesn't want to cause any problems, and she is a pacifist.*)

Supplementary Activities

1. Research: Have students research the story of Jonah and answer the following questions: Why did the fish swallow Jonah? How did he escape? What did Jonah do after getting out of the fish? Have students write a short paragraph explaining why Primrose believes the story of Jonah is about the hopefulness of the human heart.
2. Writing: Primrose gives recipes for various dishes throughout the book. Have students decorate note cards to create a class recipe file beginning with the glazed carrots recipe. Have students draw pictures of the recipes on the back of the note cards.

The Dead Whalers & I Am Almost Incarcerated

Vocabulary

mincing (20)	reptilian (20)	heathens (21)	vibrant (23)
exotic (24)	tatty (25)	unflappable (25)	heap (26)
feelers (26)	jacked (27)	pell-mell (31)	loitered (32)
perpetrator (33)	stealthily (33)	discombobulated (33)	tangent (34)
macintosh (35)	incarceration (36)	soberly (36)	muck (37)

Discussion Questions

1. Why do you think Miss Honeycut bakes cookies for Uncle Jack? (*Answers will vary; she likes him.*)
2. Why does Primrose's mind wander as Miss Honeycut tells her a long anecdote about the Buckingham Palace tea? (*Primrose is confused by Miss Honeycut's story because she talks so quickly and in such detail about so many different people.*)