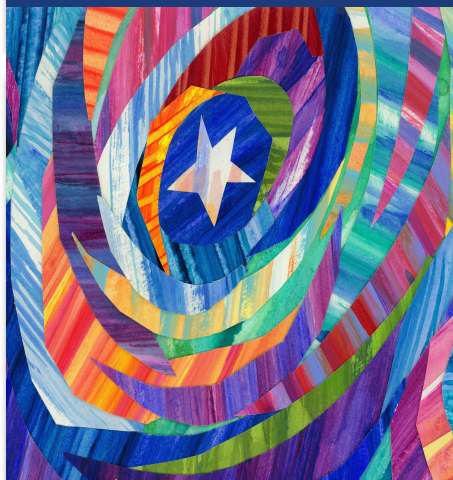


The Early Years Count Literacy Connection



Violet the Pilot

Written and illustrated by
Steve Breen

Preschool edition
October 2018

Overview of Book

Violet is different in that she reads *Popular Mechanics* magazine and makes contraptions instead of playing with dolls or other toys. She even gets teased about it. She builds an airplane to fly in the air show, but misses it because she has to make a difficult decision. Was it worth it?

Genre: Fiction

Vocabulary

Books are a rich source of words new to children. Here are some words from *Violet the Pilot* to introduce in your classroom:

mechanical	elaborate
contraptions	engineering
hazards	obnoxious
calculated	altitude
precision	esteem

Each time you read the book, choose 2 or 3 words to highlight.

Use age-appropriate definitions and/or the illustrations to help children gain an understanding of each word's meaning.

Use these new words throughout the day, reminding the children,

Connecting with the HighScope Curriculum

COR Advantage 1.5

Approaches To Learning
Item A: (*Initiative & planning*)
Item B: (*Problem solving with materials*)

Social & Emotional Devel.
Item D: (*Emotions*)

Physical Devel. & Health
Item J: (*Fine-motor skills*)

Creative Arts, Item X: (*Art*)

Science and Technology
Item CC: (*Experimenting, predicting, drawing conclusions*)
Item EE: (*Tools & technology*)

Reading Tips

There are several opportunities while reading to stop and ask question like, "How would that work?" or, "How did she think of that?"

When reading the sections where Violet is being teased, ask the children, "Why are the other children saying those things?" and, "How do you think Violet feels?"

The rescue part is very exciting. Use your tone and body language to help express the emotions going on. When Violet realizes she missed the airshow and is on her bed with Orville, ask, "What do you think Violet is thinking here?" or, "Why isn't she happy? She saved all the Boy Scouts? Why isn't she excited about that?" At the end, the town rallies around Violet. Ask, "What will Violet do next?"

Throughout the Routine

Refer to the book throughout the day and use new vocabulary words in meaningful ways. Active engagement with the story helps the content come alive.

Use **Greeting Time** to have a discussion about feelings and teasing. Ask children how they would feel and what they might do.

Collect items to take apart and reassemble for **Small Group Time**. Use real tools.

Provide odds and ends for children to “build contraptions” in the Art Area for **Work Time**.

Transition children throughout the day by having them imitate one of Violet's flying machines.

Around the Room

Highlight the book's content and build on the children's excitement in a variety of locations.

Post photos of flying machines throughout history for children to examine in the **Block Area**.

Add books and stories about pilots, airplanes and how machines work in the **Book Area**. Have stories as well as information books.

Add airplane props to the **Block Area**.

Have a variety of real tools and other building materials in the **House** or **Woodworking Areas**.

Open-ended Questions

Enhance active engagement and early critical thinking skills by asking open-ended questions. These questions encourage children to explain why or how things happen, make predictions, or brainstorm possibilities rather than give one “right” answer.

Here are some questions you might ask for *Violet the Pilot*:

How does Violet come up with these ideas?

Why do the other kids tease Violet?

What would you build if you lived next to the junkyard and could use anything from it?

Why does Violet's house look like a boat?

For more information on how to use books and stories with children to enhance your curriculum, contact
The Family Connection:

website—
www.famconn.org

Facebook—
@famconnsjc

phone—
574-237-9740

@ Home

Since many of the children in our county will have this book at home, use it as a way to further the home-school connection. In your daily contact—in person or by text, email or other notes home—encourage families to share *Violet the Pilot* with their children. Here's a sample message you can send:

The children have been inspired by the book *Violet the Pilot*. We've been busy inventing all sorts of contraptions in our classroom! If you have a broken clock or other small gadget that will be tossed out, consider letting your child take it apart. Place the item on a tray to keep the pieces together. Provide (with supervision) real screwdrivers or other tools for your child to use. Children are often curious about how things work and they have wonderful imaginations to create new inventions. Exploring old, on-the-way-out-the-door items is an inexpensive way to get children's creative juices flowing.