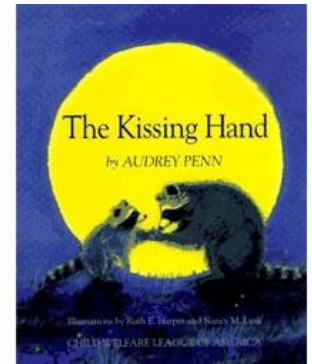


The Kissing Hand

Written by: Audrey Penn

Illustrated by: Ruth E. Harper and Nancy M. Leak

Chester Raccoon is anxious about his first day of school. His mother helps reassure him by kissing his palm and telling him whenever he feels lonely to press his hand against his cheek to remind him of home and her love.



Possible strategies for instruction:

Comprehension:

- **Predict what will happen: use text to confirm:**
 - Look at the picture on the cover. Ask: What do you think this book is going to be about? What kind of animals are they? What is the big raccoon doing? Do you think they know each other and how? After reading a few pages go back and see if we were right.
- **Use prior knowledge to connect with text:**
 - When talking about how Chester was anxious about his first day of school, have students reflect on how they felt the first morning they came to Kindergarten. Have students show the emotion on their face to match how they felt the first day of school.

Accuracy:

- **Use the pictures...Do the words and pictures match?**
 - Give students time to observe pictures, do they match the words?
 - P. 9 - says nights at school and days at home, does this match the picture? Is the sun coming up or setting for the day? Does this make sense? Why would a raccoon go to school at night?

Fluency:

- **Use punctuation to enhance phrasing and prosody (end marks, commas, etc.):**

This story can be used to tell the difference between a sentence that ends with a period and a sentence that ends with a question mark. Model the intonation in your voice, with a question mark your voice goes up. Explain why tone changes for each sentence.

 - p. 2 - Please may I stay home with you?
 - p. 6 - "You'll make new friends. And play with new toys."
 - p. 8 - "A secret? What kind of secret?"

- **Voracious reading:**
 - This text is a favorite for the beginning of the year in the early grade levels. There are other books written by this author that focus on the same characters and structure. Some of the other texts written by Audrey Penn include:
 - A Pocket Full of Kisses
 - Chester Raccoon and the Acorn Full of Memories
 - Chester the Brave
 - Chester and the Big, Bad Bully
 - A Kiss Goodbye

Expand Vocabulary:

- **Tune in to interesting words and use new vocabulary in speaking and writing:**
 - Focus on three vocabulary words. Introduce the words and discuss them with the students. Ask students to show a thumbs up when they hear the new words during the read aloud. Suggested words: forest, secret, and scamper.