

The One Day House

Written by Julia Durango; illustrated by Bianca Diaz

This story was created based on the charitable work of a friend of the author, Bill Cairns, who collaborates with local businesses in their community for a “Labor of Love” event each year. During this event, volunteers work together to repair the homes of the elderly, differently abled, and those who live in under-resourced areas. In this story, Wilson dreams of supporting his friend and neighbor Gigi in a similar way.

Possible strategies for instruction

Comprehension

- Set purpose for reading.
 - January: Poverty in America Awareness Month—A monthlong initiative to raise awareness and call attention to the growth of poverty in America
 - February: Random Acts of Kindness Day is Thursday, February 17, 2022; Random Acts of Kindness Week is February 13–19, 2022.
 - May 16: National Do Something Good for Your Neighbor Day—Celebrated annually to express gratitude to those who are closest to us
 - September 28: National Good Neighbor Day—On this day, we do fun activities to bond with our neighboring families.
 - [Meet-the-Illustrator Recording with Bianca Diaz](#): The illustrator introduces and shares some of the backstory for creating *The One Day House*.
- Retell; include sequence of main events.
 - Provide opportunities for success, based on various levels of development, by giving students the option to demonstrate their understanding of the text through retelling the story verbally, in writing, and/or by drawing a sequence map.
 - Some students might need props to support their thinking during the retelling process.
 - English language learners might need to retell the story in their native language first, and could benefit from working collaboratively in a small group.
 - Create opportunities for practice for students who struggle with this strategy by prompting them to retell orally as frequently as possible. This will also allow students to focus primarily on the retelling rather than on the written response or other methods that may present obstacles for the strategy.

Expand Vocabulary

- Tune in to interesting words: You can pre-teach vocabulary to identified learners in various ways that highlight student engagement. This could include role playing, using gestures, showing real objects, pointing to pictures, drawing a picture, or by using your student’s native language as a tool to enhance vocabulary development.
 - A few words from the text to consider: *sunshine, breeze, soul, fence, balcony, chimney, cozy, snug, wintry, surrounded*

Writing

- Wilson is determined to do something kind for Gigi by planning to fix different spaces of her house. Think of someone you would like to show kindness. Make a plan that includes all the ways you could make their day extra-special. Would you ask family and/or friends to help too? Include ways they could show kindness in your plan, then choose a day and add it to your calendar to be intentional with your actions.

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Additional Resources

- [Charlesbridge Discussion and Activity Guide](#): This guide includes comprehension questions on page 2 and much more, including a song on page 4 that could be used to build fluency with students.
- [Random Acts of Kindness](#)
- [Alliance for Strong Families and Communities](#)
- [Heartland Alliance](#)