

***Fly Away Home* by Eve Bunting**

ISBN 978-0-395-66415-5 (1991) Grade level: Elementary

Synopsis: Picture books are not just for 4–8-year-olds. They are used in any elementary classroom to introduce different ideas, empathy, and textual connections. The child's point of view in *Fly Away Home* is particularly effective.

This very sensitive book conveys a strong message about a real issue that is often left unaddressed because it's not a comfortable issue to discuss. Students, with discretion, want to understand issues that adults do not talk about or think they shouldn't hear about.

Homelessness is a real problem in every community whether you see it every day or not. This book is an excellent springboard to discuss family and community and responsible citizenship.

Prereading activity

- a) Do the *Fly Away Home* pre-reading survey. Have students share with each other their results. Graph the class results on each or some of the questions. Post the graphs for other classes to see.

Read *Fly Away Home*

- Get a class set of Collections with this story in it. Read the story to the class. Ask the students to write down questions they have about the story or stop and ask students for questions and write them on a chart.
- Assign questions to students in groups. Have them work on them and present their question and answers to the class.

Post reading Activities

- Pick a variety of reader response strategies:
 - write a letter to the main character
 - write a journal from the main characters perspective
 - have students read other books on homelessness and compare both stories
 - using a story board or plot line chart, have students write in the characters, setting, problem, events, climax and solution in the story.

Extensions

Have a discussion about homelessness in your community. Which organizations are trying to work on homelessness? What could your class do to make a difference?

***Fly Away Home* Pre-reading survey**

Name:

1. All houses have doors, windows, walls and roofs.

Agree 2 3 4 Don't Agree

2. A person could live at the airport.

Agree 2 3 4 Don't Agree

3. A wild bird can live in a building.

Agree 2 3 4 Don't Agree

4. Dressing in plain or dull coloured clothes makes you less noticeable.

Agree 2 3 4 Don't Agree

5. It's easy to keep a secret from other people.

Agree 2 3 4 Don't Agree

6. Everyone has a home to live in.

Agree 2 3 4 Don't Agree

7. People choose to live on the street.

Agree 2 3 4 Don't Agree

8. It would be great to have doughnuts and milk for breakfast every day.

Agree 2 3 4 Don't Agree

9. It's important to have family friends.

Agree 2 3 4 Don't Agree

10. It's okay to spend money you earn.

Agree 2 3 4 Don't Agree