

***Lily and the Paper Man* by Rebecca Upjohn**

ISBN 978-1-897187-19-7 (2007), Grade level: Elementary

Synopsis: Walking with her mother on the way home from school one day, Lily runs straight into a gruff and untidy looking man selling papers on the street. Lily is afraid of the man, but when the weather turns cold, she starts to see the Paper Man differently—she sees his bare toes through the holes in his boots and his thin shirt through the holes in his coat. As she lies in her cozy bed at night, she wonders how the Paper Man stays warm. Lily comes up with a wonderful idea.

Pre-reading activities

1. Ask students if they have ever seen someone who is homeless or looks like they don't have proper clothing for the weather? Why might this be so? Discuss as a class.
2. Have the students write their own story based on the pictures from the story prior to reading the book.

Post reading activities: Understanding the story

- What do you think the story is about based on the title?
- What is a Paper Man?
- Why was Lily afraid of the Paper Man when she met him?
- What are some reasons someone might have “wheezy” breathing?
- What was different about Lily’s second encounter with the Paper Man?
- What happened the third time Lily saw the Paper Man?
- What do you think Lily is talking about when she wakes up and says, “I know what to do!”?
- The family fills up a big, big bag with...?
- How did the Paper Man feel when he received the bag from Lily and her family?
- Did the relationship between Lily and the Paper Man change once she knew his name?
- Mrs. Chan told Lily to save the dollar her mom gave her until she found something special. What do you think she did with the dollar?
- Would you give away something special like your favourite blanket or stuffie? Why or why not? What could you give away? Why did Lily feel good about giving the Paper Man her quilt?
- Do you think Lily continued to have a relationship with the Paper Man?

Extensions

1. Discuss the following questions:
 - a. Will giving the Paper Man a dollar solve his problem? Why or why not?
 - b. How do you think the Paper Man feels about getting money from Lily?
 - c. What changes need to be made so the Paper Man doesn't need Lily to give him money?
2. Visit a homeless shelter or invite a representative from a homeless shelter into the classroom to learn more about the factors contributing to homelessness.