

A Common Core State Standards-Aligned Educator Guide for

GITTY AND KVETCH

ABOUT THE BOOK:

In this hilariously sweet story about an opposites-attract friendship, chock-full of Yiddish humor, a girl and her best bird friend's perfect day turns into a perfect opportunity to see things differently.

Gitty and her feathered-friend Kvetch couldn't be more different: Gitty always sees the bright side of life, while her curmudgeonly friend Kvetch is always complaining and, well, kvetching about the trouble they get into. One perfect day, Gitty ropes Kvetch into shlepping off on a new adventure to their perfect purple treehouse. Even when Kvetch sees signs of impending doom everywhere, Gitty finds silver linings and holds onto her super special surprise reason for completing their mission. But when her perfect plan goes awry, oy vey, suddenly it's Gitty who's down in the dumps. Can Kvetch come out of his funk to lift Gitty's spirits back up?

Publisher:

Atheneum Books
for Young Readers

Reading age: 4 - 8
years

Grade level:
Preschool - 3

MEET THE AUTHOR - CAROLINE KUSIN PRITCHARD

Caroline grew up as the youngest of four children in Dallas, TX and spent her childhood sneaking extra helpings of noodle kugel from her bubbe's kitchen. She moved to California for college and has spent her career working across education, everything from teaching brilliant third graders to helping develop federal policy. Caroline is currently an MFA Candidate in Writing for Children and Young Adults at Vermont College of Fine Arts. Caroline lives in Stanford, CA with her husband (Tavita), two kiddos (Afi and Manu) and their 120-lb dog (Misha).



MEET THE ILLUSTRATOR - ARIEL LANDY:

Ariel Landy is an illustrator and educator from New York City. Ariel began writing and illustrating stories as soon as she could hold a pencil and she never stopped. She currently lives in France with her husband and their dog, Sid. Learn more about Ariel and her art by accessing her website at www.ariellandyart.com.



PRE-READING DISCUSSION:

Consider the illustration on the cover of the book:

- The word *enthusiastic* means energetic, excitement, and joyful. Identify which character in the illustration appears to be enthusiastic. How do you know?
- The word *skeptical* is defined as doubtful, suspicious, and not believing. Which character seems to be skeptical? Explain your answer.
- Study the background of the illustration. Notice that there are bright flowers behind the girl and dark clouds above the bird. What do the flowers and clouds suggest about the characters?
- Illustrators tell stories with pictures. What is the story this illustration is telling?



COMMON CORE STATE ANCHOR STANDARD ALIGNMENT:

English Language Arts Standards » Anchor Standards for Writing: CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.W.2 , W.3, W.9

English Language Arts Standards » Anchor Standards for Reading: CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.R.1, R.2, R.3, R.4, R.6, R.7, R.10

English Language Arts Standards » Anchor Standards for Speaking & Listening: CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.SL.1, SL.2, SL.3, SL.4, SL.5, SL.6

POST-READING DISCUSSION:

That's right, today!
It's PERFECT!

- Gitty swirls and swoops as she creates her painting. What do these actions reveal about her character? Describe Gitty's personality.
- Rather than using words like *nice* or *special*, tell why Gitty repeatedly chooses the word *perfect* to describe the world around her?
- Gitty describes several things as being *perfect* – her painting, the day, and the purple tree house. Explain how all of these things can be *perfect*.
- How does Gitty feel about Kvetch? How do you know?

Haven't you heard of the calm before the storm?

- The term *point of view* refers to the way a character interprets situations or ideas. It appears that Kvetch's point of view regarding the perfection of the day is very different from Gitty's. Explain why this is so.
- Notice that Kvetch has a band aid on his beak. What do you think happened to Kvetch? Do you think Gitty had something to do with the injury? Does the bandaid have something to do with Kvetch's point of view? How so?

It's the soggiest, runniest, most miserable painting possible.

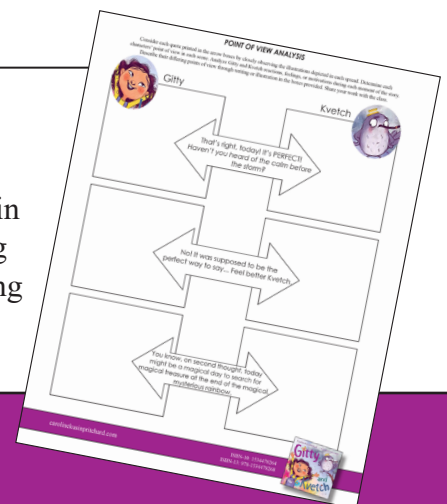
- Early in the story, Gitty was lively and energetic. Yet, when she discovered that her painting had been *ruined* by the rain, she became miserable and sad. What caused Gitty's point of view to change so suddenly?
- Describe how Gitty's disappointment affected Kvetch. Explain why Kvetch, who was once quite gloomy and drab, seems desperate to find a way to lift Gitty's spirits. What inspired the change in Kvetch?

Perfect is you and me.

- The word *kindness* means understanding, thoughtfulness, and caring. Identify ways that Kvetch demonstrated these attributes toward Gitty. What was Kvetch's motivation to do so? Explain your answer.
- Examine Kvetch's description of the word *perfect*. Explore how, instead of depending on outward events, *perfect* is an inward feeling of love, caring and friendship.

APPLICATION:

Consider each quote printed in the arrow boxes by closely observing the illustrations depicted in each spread. Determine each characters' point of view in each scene. Analyze Gitty and Kvetch reactions, feelings, or motivations during each moment of the story. Describe their differing points of view through writing or illustration in the boxes provided. Share your work with the class.



POINT OF VIEW ANALYSIS

Consider each quote printed in the arrow boxes by closely observing the illustrations depicted in each spread. Determine each character's point of view in each scene. Analyze Gitty and Kvetch reactions, feelings, or motivations during each moment of the story. Describe their differing points of view through writing or illustration in the boxes provided. Share your work with the class.



Gitty



Kvetch

That's right, today! It's PERFECT!
*Haven't you heard of the calm before
the storm?*

No! It was supposed to be the
perfect way to say... Feel better Kvetch.

You know, on second thought, today
might be a magical day to search for
magical treasure at the end of the magical,
mysterious rainbow.

