



A BEAR CALLED PADDINGTON

TEACHING GUIDE

ABOUT THE BOOK:

In this gentle, humorous classic, a small bear arrives in Paddington Station with a note attached to him: “Please look after this bear. Thank you.” Mr. and Mrs. Brown find the bear, decide to adopt him, and name him Paddington. So begins the Browns’ adventures caring for Paddington—not an easy job! From taking a bath to going shopping, from visiting the theater to performing magic tricks, Paddington has original ideas on just about everything, ideas which often result in hilarious misunderstandings. With Paddington around, life is full of fabulous surprises.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. How would you describe Paddington; for example, curious, adventurous, imaginative? How does he respond to his biggest challenges? How does he cause the events in the story? Use examples from the story to support your answers. *Common Core State Standards (Reading: Literature):* *RL.1.3., RL.2.3., RL.3.3., RL.4.3.*
2. On pages 20–21, Judy thinks Paddington’s adventures with food are funny, but he doesn’t. Why might each have a different point of view on these adventures? From your point of view, are his actions funny or not? Why? *Common Core State Standards (Reading: Literature):* *RL.1.6., RL.2.6., RL.3.6.*
3. On pages 90–94, Paddington learns more about the phrase “worth your weight in gold.” What does he think it means? How does the phrase cause him to act? What does the phrase actually mean? What do you own that’s worth its weight in gold? Or whom do you know who is worth his or her weight in gold? *Common Core State Standards (Language):* *L.1.5a., L.2.5a., L.3.5a., L.3.5b., L.4.5b.*
4. Look over the lovely illustrations. What do they tell you about Paddington and the story? How do they add humor to Paddington’s tale? Which is your favorite illustration and why? *Common Core State Standards (Reading: Literature):* *RL.1.7., RL.2.7., RL.3.7.*
5. Who is your favorite character in the story? What does that character do to make him or her your favorite? Describe in detail the actions of this character. How would you characterize the character? For example, is she or he brave? Kind? Thoughtful? Why do you think so? *Common Core State Standards (Reading: Literature):* *RL.1.1., RL.2.1., RL.3.1.*
6. Identify some of the surprises in this story, surprises for the Browns and surprises for Paddington. Do the characters seem to enjoy surprises? Using examples from the story explain why or why not. Which surprise was your favorite? Why? *Common Core State Standards (Reading: Literature):* *RL.1.1., RL.2.1., RL.3.1.*

Common Core State Standards (Speaking and Listening) that discussions might also address: *SL.1.1a-c., SL.2.1a-c., SL.3.1a-d., SL.4.1a-d., SL.1.6., SL.2.6., SL.3.6., SL.4.6.*



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