The New Girl

Author: Nicola Davies
Illustrator: Cathy Davies
Age: 5-7
Format: Hardback
Language: English
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Discussion Topics

Friendship
Feelings
Sadness
Loneliness
Acceptance

Themes

Cultures
Flowers
Traditions
Symbols
Helping others

Vocabulary

Understand
Wondered
Cruelty
Bloomed
Crumpled
Scrunched
Creases

Front cover

The title – read it together.
Who is the author? Who is the illustrator?
Who do you think could be on the cover?

Inside spread

Look at the patterns – what shapes do you see?
What is the hand holding? What does it look like?
**Pages 4 & 5**
Can you recognise anything on these pages?
What do you think they are?
Discuss that they are symbols – which symbols would you place around a picture of you?
Do you see the folded paper? This is origami, the Japanese art form of folding paper.
Try to fold paper into simple shapes, then some origami shapes.

**Pages 6 & 7**
Here is the new girl – how do you think she feels?
Can you see the other pupils? Where are they?
What would you do if a new pupil started in the school?
How could we welcome a new classmate?
What would you ask the new girl?
What would you tell them about you?
Create a class fact file about each pupil – display these.

**Pages 8 & 9**
Can you see what the new girl is eating?
Why do her classmates not like the smell?
Do we always eat the same things?
What would you talk about with the new girl?
Find out about different types of cooking – create a collection of recipe books in the role play or reading areas.

**Pages 10 & 11/ 12 & 13**
How do we all arrive and go home from school?
Is the new girl feeling better? How do you know?
What sort of things do we do after school?
What is your favourite thing to do?
Can you see the shadows?
Create shadow puppets or shadow drawing/relief prints of flowers and leaves.

**Pages 14 & 15**
What can you see on the book?
Where could it have come from?
What type of flower is it?
Show pictures of different flowers for comparisons – rose, lily, lotus, chrysanthemum, peony.
It looks like a pop-up book – try to create a pop-up card.
Pages 16 & 17
Look at the picture carefully – what do you notice about the classroom?
How many flowers are there?
What sort of weather is it? How do you know?
Does it look like our classroom?
How is it different?

Pages 18 & 19
The flowers are made from paper.
Can you remember what we call the art of paper folding? Origami.
What else can we make out of paper or recycled paper and card?
Make some papier mâché pots and ornaments.

Pages 20 & 21
Why was the paper on the floor?
Who threw it there?
Where do we put rubbish?
Which bins? Talk about recycling.
Who do you think picked the scrunched paper up?

Pages 22 & 23
The new girl opened it up and folded it carefully and made… what, I wonder?
A flower.
Can you see the folds in the paper? Shall we make some paper shapes/aeroplanes? Which one will fly the furthest?

Pages 24 & 25
What has the new girl made?
What does the other girl think of it?
How do you know?

Pages 26 & 27
What did the children learn to do?
Can you remember some of the names of the flowers?
How many different flowers can you count?
Page 28 & 29
What has happened?
They have become friends – who are your friends?
What do you enjoy doing with your friends?

Page 30 & 31
Read the information about the author and illustrator – find some of their other books/drawings and compare them.

Page 32 & 33
Here are a list of other books published by GRAFFEG – how many do you have already?
Which is your favourite?
Why – explain the reason.

Back cover
What do you see on the back?
Title
Name of the author
The blurb – this gives us a short description of the story.
Look at other ISBNs or barcodes.

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Perfect
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