

Story Time Guide for Big Little Brother



Text by Kevin Kling, Illustrations by Chris Monroe
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“It’s my own fault.
I WANTED a little brother.”

Big Little Brother is the charming first children’s book by celebrated storyteller Kevin Kling with whimsical drawings by Chris Monroe. It traces a familiar arc from sibling rivalry to brotherly love. This book can be enjoyed by many different ages, starting with pre-schoolers. Older children will relate to the relational aspects between the brothers.

Discussion Questions for Story Time

After reading the story, ask the kids describe some of the differences between big brothers and little brothers in the book and in their own lives, such as:

Big-boy pajamas vs. diapers
Big-boy bed vs. crib

How does the big brother feel when his baby brother grows bigger than him? How does he feel when people think that bigger means older? Has that happened to you?

How can expectations differ from reality? Does what you expect or want to happen always end up happening?

The older brother wanted a baby brother that he could boss around, but instead he got an annoying companion who takes Mommy’s attention and messes up his things.

Talk about what happens when the other kid comes and takes the turkey out of the oven. What expressions are on the boys’ faces? Can you make a mean face? A scared face? What made the mean kid go away?

How does life change for these two brothers after the incident at the Old Woman in the Shoe?

Other Activities!

Draw from Memory

Open up back or front endpapers. Depending on ages of children, give pencil and paper. Allow children to study pictures for one minute, then close the covers. Now, have them draw as many of the pictures as they can. Who remembered the most? The items on the endpapers are crayons, jacks, Etch-a-Sketch, cars, clown car, socks, army men, bubble wand and bubble soap, donuts, and paddleballs.

Act It Out!

Have the children act out the “kitchen” scene (with just a pretend push). How do they feel when they are the mean kid? How do they feel when they are the big brother? How do they feel when the little brother comes to rescue them? Were you ever bullied? What did you do? Is it easy to stand up to a bully?

Other Activities

Shadow Play

Equipment: A draped sheet and a flashlight

The little brother is afraid of the shadows made by the trees and passing headlights outside his window. Have you ever been afraid of shadows? Do you know how to make a shadow?

Show the children how to make different kinds of shadows and then have them try some of their own.

About the book's creators

Kevin Kling is the author of two books and several plays, including the musical *Busytown*, with composer Michael Koerner, based on the classic and amusing picture books by Richard Scarry.

Painter and cartoonist **Chris Monroe** draws the weekly comic strip *Violet Days* and is the author and illustrator of the *Monkey with a Toolbelt* series and *Sneaky Sheep*, among other books for children.