

Teacher Guides

ENHANCE your instruction with step-by-step lesson plans that make it easy to build reading and writing skills. The Teacher Guides focus on the lively characters as well as the structure, language, and text features of the books—encouraging students to analyze specific aspects of the text in detail and aiding them in the development of writing skills.

QUICKLY find the right book to match the curriculum to students' needs in the "Lesson at a Glance" section.

BUILD background knowledge and empower students before they read with the "Before Reading" activities.

Dad's Day Off

Lesson at a Glance

ORL: M
Word Count: 1124
Lexiles: 470L

Summary: Rocco and Amy have a day of home dad. He takes care of the kids and house while Mom works. It is a luller. Everything runs smoothly until Dad gets sick. After a disastrous day, everyone learns to appreciate each parent's skills.

SKILLS

- **Comprehension Skill:** Compare and Contrast
- **Vocabulary:** assist, dink, imagine, organized, volunteer
- **Comprehension Strategy:** Make Connections
- **Language Focus:** Pronouns
- **Literary Focus:** Genre: Realistic Fiction
- **Fluency:** Change Voice—Characters

1 Before Reading

Build Background/Assess Prior Knowledge: Display the cover and read the title. Tell students that the father in this story is a stay-at-home dad—a dad who takes care of the kids and the house while the mom works. Mention that there are other books about Dad and his family in the *Picture* series. Redirect attention to the cover. Ask, How do you think Dad's job will get done if he is sick?

Set a Purpose: Introduce the characters on pages 4 and 5 and discuss what each character says about the family. Point out how Dad is the one who is sick in bed on the cover. Then have partners page through the book to set a purpose for reading, such as, I will read to find out how the family manages without Dad's help.

More Pre-Reading Activities

Comprehension Skills: Compare and Contrast: Preview the comprehension skill with students. Say: When you compare two people or things, you tell how they are alike. When you contrast two people or things, you tell how they are different.

Have students use the information from pages 4 and 5 to compare Mom and Dad. As needed, help students compare the characters by pointing out that they both have a lot of work to do. Contrast the characters by noting that Mom works outside the home and Dad stays at home.

SUNDANCE PAGES

SUPPORT ELL students with suggestions for adapting their language skills.

2 During Reading

Read the Story: Distribute *Blackline Master 1*. Read the story. Review the directions and questions. Then have students read *Dad's Day Off*. They may read the story independently. Or guide the reading, using these prompts.

Chapter 1: How would you describe Rocco's mood? What tasks does Dad do at home? How does he keep track of what he has to do?

Chapter 2: Why is it a "big mistake" for Mom to try and clean up? How does Rocco help her? Why do you think Mom gets her car on the way to the park?

Chapter 3: Why do you think Rocco tries to talk Mom out of going to the library? How do you think Mom feels when she sees Dad's favorite shirt?

Chapter 4: How do you think the family feels when they see the mess in the kitchen? Why do you think Mom has a hard time cooking tonight?

Chapter 5: Why do you think Dad offers to cook dinner even though he's been sick? What do you think Mom learned from doing Dad's job?

Language Focus: Mini-Lesson: Pronouns: Write these sentences on the board and read them aloud: Dad doesn't feel well. He needs to stay in bed. Read aloud the first sentence, circling the noun Dad. Say: Dad is a noun. It names a person. Read aloud the second sentence. Ask: Which word in this sentence takes the place of the noun Dad? Rocco. He takes the place of the noun Dad. The pronoun he can take the place of any noun that names a male.

• Write this and fill under the box: My mom and I are two other pronouns that can take the place of a noun that names a male.

• Discuss when to use he, his, and him. Repeat with the pronouns I, my, me, you, your, she, her, it, its, they, their, them; and we, our, us.

Distribute Blackline Master 2, Who's That? Ask students to look for pronouns as they read the story.

ELL English-Language Learners: Language Transfer

Pronouns can present challenges for native speakers of Chinese, Italian, Greek, Hebrew, Spanish, and Vietnamese. In these languages, there is no distinction between subject and object pronouns. Students may say *He read* by *help* instead of *She read* to *help* me. Help students practice using subject and object pronouns by reading sentences and emphasizing the correct pronouns. Use the words to help take the place of the household jobs.

Think Aloud It: Have students consider the Think Aloud at questions at the end of the book.

Answers: 1. Sample answer: My mom says there weren't any cell phones when she was growing up. 2. Dad cooks, cleans, shops, and keeps the family organized. 3. Everything Mom has turns out badly, so Rocco is probably worried that Mom will mess up the laundry, too. 4. Rocco says, "We're saved," because he and Amy won't have to eat Mom's cooking. 5. Rocco means that Dad couldn't do Mom's job as a lawyer.

SUNDANCE PAGES



DEVELOP higher-order thinking skills with comprehension strategy mini-lessons, vocabulary, grammar, literary analysis, and fluency with the "During Reading" activities.

INFORM teaching and measure growth with assessment options.

3 After Reading

Literary Focus: Genre: Realistic Fiction: Explain that there are different kinds of stories. Some stories tell about characters and events that are real. Others tell about characters and events that could be real but are made up by the author.

- Say: Stories that tell about characters and events that could be real but are made up by the author are called realistic fiction.
- Pose periodically as students read the story and have them explain why the characters and events are realistic.

Comprehension Skills: Compare and Contrast: Distribute *Blackline Master 3, How Do They Compare?* Have students work with partners to compare and contrast Mom and Dad.

Vocabulary: Have students complete Explore Your Words and Use Your Words as a New Way on the Smart Word Card.

Fluency: Change Voice—Characters: Tell students that when they read dialogue, or the characters' words, they can use their voices to make the characters sound as if they are really speaking. Model reading page 17, first in a monotone and then by changing your voice for Rocco's narration and Mom's dialogue. Have partners take turns reading a chapter from the story. The reader should change voices for the different characters. The listener should listen for voice changes and identify each character.

Speaking and Listening: Have partners choose a chore that Mom may have trouble doing. Have them work together to explain the task by describing the steps in the process.

Writing: Create a Help-Wanted Ad: Ask students to create a help-wanted ad for an assistant for Dad. Provide models from newspapers or online sources. Explain that the ad should include: who placed the ad, what the assistant will do, and what special skills or abilities the assistant needs.

ASSESS PROGRESS

Written Assessment

Blackline Master 1, Read the Story: assesses students' understanding of the selection.

Answers: 1. Rocco's mom is a lawyer and his dad is a stay-at-home dad. 2. Mom gets lost trying to find the park and drives around for two hours before giving up and taking Rocco and Amy home. 3. Mom accidentally washes one of Amy's two shirts in with the white clothes, and the red shirt turns the white clothes pink. 4. Rocco calls the kitchen a disaster area because Mom makes a huge mess in the kitchen when she tries to make dinner. 5. Mom realizes how difficult it is to be a stay-at-home parent and that she is more suited to being a lawyer. 6. Rocco finds Dad calling Mom wonderful if it were because of all the problems Mom had trying to do Dad's job at home.

Blackline Master 2, Who's That?: assesses students' understanding of pronouns.

Answers: 1. Mom, 2. Dad, 3. Mom and Dad, 4. Rocco and Amy, 5. Mom, 6. Mom, 7. the clothes, 8. Rocco and Amy

Blackline Master 3, How Do They Compare?: assesses students' ability to compare and contrast. Have volunteers share their answers by completing a Venn diagram on the board.

Answers: Mom—works as a lawyer, is a good partner. Mom—works as a lawyer, is not a good cook, does not do well with the household chores. Dad—stays at home, is very organized, keeps the house running smoothly.

Performance Assessment: Use these activities to informally observe that students have improved their oral reading and comprehension skills.

- Work with a group to present part of the story as a Readers Theater.
- Read the story from Mom's point of view.
- Write the story events on index cards. Have a partner arrange the cards in story sequence.

SUNDANCE PAGES

Name _____

Read the Story

Read the assigned chapter(s). Answer the assigned question(s).

Chapter 1 1. What do Rocco's parents do for work?

Chapter 2 3. What happens when Mom tries to take Rocco and Amy to the park?

Chapter 3 3. Why do the clothes in the basket _____

Chapter 4 4. Why does Rocco call the kitchen _____

Chapter 5 5. What does Mom realize about _____

Name _____

Who's That?

A pronoun takes the place of a noun.

Singular Pronouns	Plural Pronouns
I, me, my, you, your, he, him, his, she, her	us, we, our, you, your, they, their

Name _____

How Do They Compare?

When you compare two things, you tell how they are alike. When you contrast two things, you tell how they are different. Complete the Venn diagram to compare and contrast Mom and Dad.

Mom	Both	Dad

Dad's Day Off

MEET CCSS with 3 blackline masters for each title that cover writing narratives, informative/explanatory topic exploration, introducing topics clearly, and more.