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# Chester's Way

Compiled by: Katy

I'm assuming this is either first or second grade? There definitely could be students who have already "heard" this story but haven't read it on their own or at least not read it and comprehended it at an indep. level. So I would start by asking who has heard this story before. Then say "Today you are going to read this yourself. But when you read it, I want you to focus on this..." (reading for a purpose) Since the theme in Kevin Henkes' books are usually related to friendship and childhood problems, I would focus on that: If there are two friends who are best friends and do everything together and then a new person comes along, how do those friends feel? How does the new person feel? What problems could there be? What are ways you can solve that problem? Has that situation ever happened to you before? What did you do? Did it work? You are going to read about two really good friends, Chester and Wilson and find out what happens when a new friend, Lily, comes along. I want you to think about any problems and solutions there are in this story, if something like that has ever happened to you before, and what ideas you have about it. If there are any tricky words, preview them. Then have them do guided reading like usual, listening in. Perhaps you could have them start a response page when they are done reading that says:Problem: Solution:The next time you meet, you could talk about the problems and solutions in the story, having students share from their response pages. Then have them read other Kevin Henke's books that are also at that level and compare them- character studies, venn diagrams, etc. You could ask them to write the character's name and 3 adjectives that describe that character and tell them they need to quote examples from the text that support their ideas. Kevin Henkes has a lot of great books that are connected. Good luck!

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