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GRADE

2

ANTHOLOGY

Platinum

English Home Language

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Platinum English Home Language Grade 2 Anthology

Maskew Miller Learning
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Come and sit, and take your place,
Let the stories fill this space.
Close your eyes, the world takes flight,
With tales of wonder, day or night.
A pirate's ship, a dragon's roar,
A secret key, a hidden door.

Brave young heroes, wise old trees,
Talking animals, buzzing bees.
Every word's a magic thread,
Weaving pictures in your head.
So lend your ears, the tales will sing,
And take you flying on their wing.

From far-off lands to home so small,
Listen close, the stories call.



Theme 1: Friendship fun

Pre-reading questions

1. What do you like the most about parties?
2. What is a harelip?
3. Do you think it is easy looking after a new baby?
Think of three or four things that you have to do when looking after a baby.

Friends

Lindsay was very excited. She was going to the birthday party of Thamsanqa, one of the boys in her class. She was looking forward to seeing her best friends, Ayesha and Penny. She hadn't seen them since her baby brother, Desmond, had been born. She was also looking forward to a relaxing day of fun.



When they arrived at the party, Lindsay's parents came in to show the new baby to her friends. Ayesha and Penny came running up eagerly to look at little Desmond. When they saw him, however, their faces changed. Ayesha looked shocked and put her hand over her mouth in dismay. Penny burst out laughing and ran away.



Desmond had been born with a harelip. This means that his top lip had a little gap in it, running from his nose to his mouth. The doctors had sewn it up beautifully and he would be absolutely fine, but it could be shocking to see the little scar and stitches on his tiny face. Lindsay's parents had been upset at first, but now they understood that Desmond was going to be all right. He was a lovely, happy, healthy baby.



Lindsay was sad about how her friends reacted to her baby brother. Everyone was jumping on the big jumping castle, but Lindsay didn't want to join in. She sat down on a bench, feeling very miserable.

Sarin, a boy from her class, came up to her. He wasn't on the jumping castle, because his legs were weak and slightly crooked. He had to wear special braces to help him walk. He sat down next to her and gave her a tissue.

"Why are you crying, Lindsay? Can I help?" he asked gently. Lindsay told him the whole story. He listened carefully. Then he replied, "I'm very sorry this has been so hard for you and your family, Lindsay. I can understand that you feel very sad about the way your friends behaved. Sometimes people laugh or run away when they see something they don't understand. I think you should give Ayesha and Penny a bit of time to get used to the way Desmond looks."

As Lindsay thought about these words, Sarin continued, "Many people are uncomfortable when they see my legs and my braces. I've learnt, however, that after a while, it's no longer an issue."

"I suppose you're right, Sarin," replied Lindsay with a wobbly smile. "I was also shocked the first time I saw Desmond's stitches and scar. Thank you for sharing your story with me."

"Of course I'm right! I'm always right! Now come on, let's go and have some birthday cake!" laughed Sarin.

They took two enormous slices of the green-and-yellow birthday cake and went to watch everyone playing on the jumping castle. Ayesha and Penny waved to Lindsay and she smiled and waved back.

After a while they sang 'Happy Birthday' to Thamsanqa. Then Sarin held up his slice of cake and sang another verse:

*"We're here to say,
You're making us sway,
We feel very full,
We could roll a down a hill.
But you're a good friend,
So we'll eat 'till the end!
Happy birthday, dear
Thamsanqa.
Happy birthday to you!"*

Everyone laughed and clapped, and they had some more cake!



Post-reading questions

1. What do you think Penny and Ayesha should have done, or said, instead?
2. How did Lindsay feel after seeing her friends' reactions?
3. Why do you think Sarin was more understanding?
4. The next time you see someone who is different, how are you going to react? Are you going to be kind?

Theme 2: Families and friends

Pre-reading questions

1. When you hear the word “family”, what do you think of?
2. How many people live together in your home? Who looks after you?
3. What do you think is the most important thing about having a family? Explain your answer.

Families – all shapes and sizes

When we hear the word ‘family’, we often think of a mother, a father and their children. Families, however, have changed over the years. Long ago, families were rather different. Even today, there are many types of family units, made up of many different combinations of people.



In some societies, a family includes cousins, uncles, aunts and grandparents. In some cultures, men can have more than one wife. In these cases, each wife has a house for herself and her children. The children learn about the ways and beliefs of their culture by listening to the adults' stories.

Families come in all shapes and sizes,
Each one full of love and surprises.
Some have two moms, or maybe two dads,
Some are raised by grannies or grandads.
Some have brothers,
Some have none,
Some have sisters
Oh, what fun!
Some live near,
Some live far,
Their love shines bright,
Like a guiding star.



This family consists of a mother, father, brothers, sisters, nieces, aunts and cousins.

In the past in Europe, a wealthy household would consist of parents, siblings, aunts, uncles, grandparents and servants. Poorer nieces, nephews and other relatives would sometimes be taken in too. This meant that they could be educated and have more opportunities than before.



Regular families would live close together in villages. Although each household would have one set of parents, there would be grandparents and other relatives living there too. In the village, neighbours would help each other in hard times. They would give each other food or help with farmwork. Mothers and grandmothers would help each other look after the children.

More recently, people started living longer, healthier lives because of improvements in medicine and diets. In some places, several generations still live together as one big family. In others, it is more common for grandparents to live in their own houses.

Over time, more schools were built, so education now takes place in classrooms instead of at Granny's house! Crèches and aftercare facilities care for children after school if parents work.

Many people live in cities and are not close friends with their neighbours. Many parents miss having the help of their own parents and their communities.



A family that consists of two parents and their children, is called a 'nuclear family'.

Besides schools and neighbourhoods, our beliefs and laws have changed too. Divorce has become more common, so some households have only one parent. If people marry a second time, the new stepmother or stepfather may have their own children who join the family. Sometimes, grandparents have to look after their grandchildren. There are some families in which two men or two women look after the children. Some people feel that their very close friends are part of their family.



What do they mean when they say, 'It takes a village to raise a child'?

As they said in the old days: "It takes a village to raise a child."

Post-reading questions

1. What is an extended family?
2. Who lives with an extended family in their house?
3. Explain two other ways in which families have changed over time.