

Guided Reading with

## ELIZABETI'S DOLL

Guided Reading: J

DRA: 18

Intervention: 17

written by Stephanie Stuve-Bodeen

illustrated by Christy Hale

**Overview:** As her mother cares for a new baby, a young African girl learns about motherhood from her own very special—and unusual—doll. This award-winning story is a universal tale of love!

32 pages, 578 words

**Genre:** Realistic Fiction

**Focus:**

- understanding the author's message
- connecting personal experiences / background knowledge with a story
- thinking about similarities and differences
- drawing conclusions and making inferences
- following a longer story with varied sentence structures

**Supportive Text Features:**

- familiar words and concepts
- narrative sentence and text form
- sequential events

**Phonics:**

- /wh/ consonant digraph
- word ending "-ed" spelling pattern/sound exploration

**High-frequency Words:**

*had, a, of, him, and, she, to, for, her, have, so, went, up, it, but, on, the, then, was, just, when, had, he, very, little, too, that, did, back, with, saw, get, from, out, be, into, put, this, how, where, all, were, look(ed), in, one, at, they, away, day, make*

**Common Core Standards**

- R.1, R.2, R.4, R.7
- RF.1, RF.2, RF.3, RF.4
- W.2, W.3
- SL.1, SL.2, SL.4
- L.1, L.4

**ELL/ESL** *La muñeca de Elizabeti*  
See back page

### Getting Ready to Read

#### 1. Introduce the concept and vocabulary by asking open-ended questions:

- Have you ever used your imagination to pretend you have something you'd like to have, but don't have? What did you pretend to have?
- What kinds of things do you play with when you pretend? Are they real or imaginary things?
- You all know what a doll is. If a child doesn't have a doll, what other things could be played with like a doll?

#### 2. Connect children's past experiences with the book vocabulary:

- Hold the book. Call children's attention to the title. Read: "*Elizabeti's Doll*."
- Ask children to use the title and picture on the cover to predict what they would expect to read about in the story.
- Show the back cover and read the copy. Ask children to think about how Elizabeti might care for her doll.
- Have children suggest some words they might read in the story.



- Give children the book and have them look through it. Ask them to find some hints about what happens in the story.

### 3. Remind children of the strategies they know and can use with unfamiliar words:

- Ask them, "What will you do if you come to a word you don't know?"
- Encourage children to look for chunks of words they know and to blend the sounds quickly.
- Suggest that children read on past an unfamiliar word in order to use the context of the story to unlock the meaning of the word. Encourage children to return to the word after completing the sentence or section.
- Tell children to think about what they know about taking care of babies. Then encourage them to choose a word that makes sense in the sentence.

### 4. Be aware of the following text features:

- The book contains numerous high-frequency words and many other familiar words.
- Text placement and the amount of text on each page vary.
- The story is written and told in narrative form. Throughout the beginning, there is a parallel structure between Mama's actions and Elizabeti's actions.
- The story events are sequential and real, although the African setting may be unfamiliar to children.

- The story has a clearly defined Setting/Problem/Solution/Outcome format.
- Contractions and possessives are used throughout the story.
- The illustrations support and extend the text, but most of the meaning is contained in the text.

**Guided Reading Note:** Level J is the benchmark for the beginning of the second grade. Children reading at this level are moving into a fluent stage, and the focus emphasizes comprehension and independent reading. Most of the reading should be done silently. Children are also encouraged to: 1) independently apply their reading skills and strategies, 2) make connections between their own experiences and the story, and 3) "get" the author's message and be able to discuss it with other readers. Most importantly, children should feel confident and eager to read. This is a time to build fluency and independence as children read a variety of genres and develop a sense of reading for different purposes.

## Reading the Book

**1. Set a purpose by telling children to read about a girl who finds a special doll to care for, just like her mother cares for the new baby in the family.**

**2. Have children read the story silently.** Each child should be reading at his or her own pace. Listen to children as they read by leaning close or bending down beside each



child. After the group has read a few pages, check for understanding with simple questions such as: "What is the story about?" or "Tell me how the story begins." Then direct them to continue reading. As they read, watch for indications of comprehension: changes in facial expressions, giggles, audible comments, rereading, turning back to a page. You may want to make notations about what you notice.

### 3. Look for these reading behaviors during the first reading:

- Do they rely on the print while reading?
- Do they have a strong sight vocabulary?
- Do they use known sound chunks to read unknown words?
- Are they showing signs of understanding the story?
- Are they monitoring meaning and rereading when they lose meaning?
- Do they easily move from page to page? Are they reading fluently?
- Are they using punctuation to gain meaning?
- How are they using the pattern at the beginning of the book?
- Do they make accurate predictions?
- Are they connecting the text to their own experiences?
- Do they react to the text even though they are reading silently? Do they laugh? smile? frown?

4. **As children read, note what they are doing.** Help them build independence by being available, but not intervening too quickly.

- Watch for changes in children's facial expressions and use these signals to ask questions, such as: "What made you smile?" or "Where do you need some help?"
- Encourage children's attempts by making comments such as: "I like how you are using a different strategy when the first one you tried didn't work."
- If children are struggling with deciding which strategy to use, suggest a specific strategy that would help them get meaning in the most efficient way, such as, "Did you think about chunking the word?"

### 5. Possible teaching points to address based on your observations:

- Review how to find a known part or sound chunk in an unknown word.
- Show children how to use analogies to move from the known to the unknown when encountering new words.
- Review using grammar (syntax) to unlock words by considering the sentence structure or parts of speech in the sentence.
- Review how to determine what is important in a sentence or story. Discuss the way the story is structured using the Setting/Problem/Solution/Outcome format.
- Model asking questions or making "I



wonder..." statements to extend comprehension.

- Talk about similarities and differences between the setting of the story and the communities where children live.
- Call attention to the following contractions: didn't, wouldn't, couldn't, wasn't. Review the use of an apostrophe to take the place of the missing letters.
- Talk about adding an apostrophe plus "s" to nouns to form the possessive: Elizabethi's, Obedi's, Eva's, family's. Review how this shows belonging to or possession.
- Work with the ending "-ed" and explore the different sounds the spelling pattern can represent: /d/ sound in filled, /t/ sound in wrapped. Also explore how the "-ed" ending gives information about when an action occurred.
- Work with words from the story with initial /wh/ consonant digraph: when, which, while. Explore other words with these sounds.
- Model how to revisit the text to find specific examples or ideas in the story. Revisit ELIZABETI'S DOLL to find places in the story where children made personal connections.

### After the First Reading

**1. Have children compare and confirm their predictions with what actually happened in the story.**

**2. Ask children if they had difficulty with any words or ideas, and what specific strategies they used to make sense of the story.** Encourage children to be specific about showing the parts that gave them trouble and telling how they went about sorting things out.

**3. Connect the story to children's own experiences.** Discuss how parts of the story are similar to their lives or experiences and how other parts are different.

**4. Ask children to talk about anything that surprised them or was a new piece of information that they didn't know before they read the story.**

**5. Elicit children's thoughts about Elizabethi's doll.** Talk about being creative and making their own playthings.

**6. Have children explore Elizabethi's changing emotions and feelings.** Go through the story, having volunteers read one or two pages aloud at a time. Then talk about how Elizabethi felt and why.

### Second Reading

**1. Have children reread the book silently or to a partner.**

**2. This is a time for assessment.** Keeping notes on children's progress during a guided reading session will be a helpful resource for giving children on-going feedback about themselves as readers as well as helping you record how they develop over time.

- While they are reading, watch what children do and what they use from the teaching time.



- You might also take a running record on one child as an assessment of the child's reading behavior.
- You might also listen in on each individual reader, observing as children use appropriate or inappropriate strategies. This information will be valuable for any additional strategy discussions after the second reading.

### Cross-Curricular Activities

**Art:** The artist of ELIZABETI'S DOLL used patterned papers to create the clothing and other fabrics in the illustrations. Challenge children to create their own collage illustrations using patterned or other colored/textured papers for objects in their pictures.

Have children bring in a small palm-sized rock (or purchase at a craft or pet store). Give children paint, fabric scraps, stickers, and other materials to create their own rock dolls.

**Music:** ELIZABETI'S DOLL takes place in Tanzania, and several recordings are available of traditional and popular music from that country. Play some of these recordings for children and have them compare the traditional and popular music. Elicit children's thoughts about which music they like best, and why.

**Science:** Discuss the nurturing instinct found in both animals and humans. Talk

about how Elizabeti's desire to care for her own "baby" is something human beings are born with and can be seen in the animal kingdom as well. Invite children to research different animals and see if some creatures are more nurturing than others (elephants versus sharks, for example).

On page 19, Elizabeti carries a water jug on her head. The ability to do this is based on balance and gravity. Here is video of other women in Tanzania carrying objects on their heads:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cThEt5KmdV4>

Explore these concepts and invite children to experiment with different objects (with adult supervision) to see which ones are easier to balance than others. (recommendation: try this outside!) Compare carrying something on your head to on your back (like in a backpack).

Elizabeti made her doll from a material that is available in her area: rocks. What other materials have dolls been made out of? Bring in images or examples of traditional dolls from around the world (cornhusk dolls, paper dolls, wooden dolls, soapstone dolls, and so on). Discuss the materials from which they are made. How does geography or place impact what the doll is made of? For example, if an archaeologist finds a doll made of cornhusks, we might be able to infer that the community used, valued, or lived in a place that was suitable for corn.

**Math:** Have children find a large waterproof container in the classroom to be their "water jug." Figure out how much water the jug holds. Then have children estimate the number of jugs of water Elizabeti would need



for various activities, such as: washing her hands, taking a bath, washing her kanga, watering her garden, and so on.

Make a list of children's favorite toys with which to play pretend. Discuss if they are homemade or store bought. Tally and graph the results. Alternatively, make a list of chores children perform to help their families at home. Tally and graph the results of the types of chores.

Write the Swahili (a language spoken in Tanzania) number words, their pronunciations, and their numerical equivalents on the whiteboard.

moja (MO-jah) = 1

mbili (m-BEE-lee) = 2

tatu (TAH-too) = 3

nne (N-nay) = 4

tano (TAH-no) = 5

Have children practice saying the number words until they are familiar with their pronunciations and meanings. Then give children simple math problems to solve using these number words. For example:

tatu plus moja equals ?

moja plus mbili equals ?

tano minus nne equals ?

mbili plus moja plus moja equals ?

tatu times nne equals ?

nne times tano equals ?

**Social Studies:** For other views of contemporary African childhood, read:  
BABU'S SONG

<https://www.leeandlow.com/books/2357>

ELIZABETI'S SCHOOL

<https://www.leeandlow.com/books/2388>

MAMA ELIZABETI

<https://www.leeandlow.com/books/2425>

BEATRICE'S GOAT by Page McBrier

PAPA, DO YOU LOVE ME? by Barbara M. Joose

Have children look for similarities and differences between these stories and ELIZABETI'S DOLL.

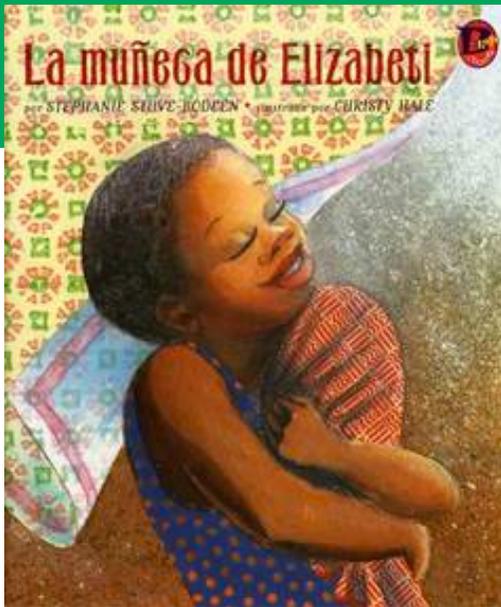
Help children locate Tanzania on a globe or world map. On what continent is Tanzania? On what part of the continent is Tanzania located? On what ocean is Tanzania? Which countries border Tanzania? What is the capital? What large lake borders Tanzania?

**Writing:** Have children write letters to Elizabeti, telling them about their families, where they live, their favorite games and toys, and so on.

Have children make a Venn Diagram comparing their home life with Elizabeti's home life. Then in a paragraph, have children describe how their family and home is similar to and different from Elizabeti's family and home. Encourage children to refer to their Venn Diagram as they compose their paragraph.



## BEBOP CLASSROOM CONNECTION



*Guided Reading: J*  
*EDL/DRA: 18*  
*Intervention: 18*

### Guided Reading with **LA MUÑECA DE ELIZABETI**

Level J is the benchmark for the beginning of the second grade. Children at this level are becoming fluent readers. All the directions given for the introduction, first reading, and second reading of the English edition can be used with the Spanish edition of the book. The focus of the teacher's support should be on building comprehension, fluency, and confidence. This is a time for growing independence. To read the book successfully, children need the same kinds of support as their English-speaking classmates. Second language learners often benefit from acting out new words, seeing pictures, and talking about them using concrete examples.

Phonics skills to focus on include: /ñ/ character and sound, as in **muñeca, pañal, tamaño, pequeño, bañaba, niño**; and initial silent /h/, as in **hasta, hora, hoguera, hervir, hasta, había, hermana, hermanito, hacia, hacía**.

The Spanish edition contains numerous high frequency and many familiar words. New vocabulary may include the following: **pinchó, salpicaba, se portaba, eructo, educada, cambiaba, alivio, labores, kanga, aldea, nana**. Unfamiliar words may be presented along with synonyms to help deepen children's comprehension of the words and the story. You may also use real objects to support the learning of new vocabulary. Also point out that many words in the story are used in the third person past tense, ending with an accented "ó," indicating that the stress falls on the last syllable, such as: **pinchó, recogió, encontró, llegó, colocó, regresó, negó, llevó, sentó, llamó, salió, acunó, cantó, cubrió, sonrió, pensó**.

For dual-language children, cognates may also be used, such as: **mamá/mama, no/no, perfecto/perfect, colores/colors, visitar/to visit, preparaban/prepared**.

The story is written in narrative form. Point out the use of dashes on page 15 to show emphasis, and the use of exclamation points on page 27 to show strong emotion. Review that exclamation points appear "upside down" at the beginning of a sentence and "right side up" at the end.

The book language used may differ from children's oral language. Comparing any differences will help children read and understand the story. Also help children understand that we often speak differently than we write, and that both ways of using language are important.

**For more information about Bebop Books, please contact:**



**Abraham Barretto, Vice President of Educational Sales at Bebop Books, An imprint of LEE & LOW BOOKS**  
95 Madison Avenue  
New York, NY 10016  
212-779-4400 x 23  
212-683-1894 fax  
abarretto@leeandlow.com

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