

## Interactive Reading: Boxes for Katje by Candace Fleming

### Lesson Focus:

1. To read and enjoy a story together;
2. To learn how to think about and understand a story in process through small group discussion;
3. To verify information from text;

**Summary:** After World War II, there is little left in Katje's town of Olst in Holland. Her family, like most Dutch families, must go without soap and milk and must patch and repair old, worn clothing. But, one spring morning, a mysterious box arrives from America. The townspeople of Olst as well as the people in a small town in America will never be the same. This story is inspired by true experiences of the author's mother.

### Introduction:

1. Title, author, and cover
2. Brief background knowledge of World War II
3. Brief summary of the events of the story (show inside cover)

### Procedure:

1. Read aloud, pp. 1-3
  - a. Stop after p. 3 TP: *"Turn and talk to a partner about what you think is in the box."*
  - b. Listen to a few ideas.
2. Read aloud, pp. 4-mid p. 5
  - a. Stop briefly before last paragraph to have students predict what Katje has decided.
  - b. Listen to a few responses.
3. Continue reading pp. 5-10.
  - a. Stop reading the sentence, *"From the box Katje pulled...."*
  - b. TP: *Make a prediction about what was in the box.*
4. Continue reading pp. 11-17
  - a. Stop reading bottom of p. 17
    - i. TP: *Based on what you know about Katje already, what do you think she did next?*
    - ii. *What do you think the letter said?*

5. Read p. 18 – TP: *Was your prediction right?*
6. Read pp. 19-26
  - a. TP: *Turn and talk to your partner about what you're thinking at this point in the story.*
  - b. *Allow time to share with whole group.*
7. Read pp. 27-30
  - a. Stop before reading the letter: TP: *Turn to your group and predict what was in the box.*
  - b. Share ideas with whole group: Why do you think that?
8. Read letter.

**Closing Statement:** *Do you think this was a good gift? Why or why not?*

## **Shared Read Aloud: Boxes for Katje by Candace Fleming**

### **Lesson Focus:**

1. To practice rereading to gain meaning;
2. To understand character motivation;
3. To verify information from text;

**Summary:** Review the story: characters, setting, plot.

### **Purpose of Lesson:**

Read to understand how characters can influence change in other characters' lives;

Understand the importance of rereading to gain a deeper meaning;

Gain knowledge of postwar Holland through story events;

### **Vocabulary:**

Cobbled street, p.2

savored, p. 5

bulbs, p. 9

What luxury! p. 4

### **Shared Reading Aloud:**

*Setting the Purpose: As I read the story, I want you to think about what Holland was like after World War II. Think about the characters and what their lives were like as a result of the war.*

Read pp. 1-3

*What is a cobbled street?*

*Explain what The Children's Aid Society was by referring to the next sentence in the paragraph: "Children in America are collecting and mailing many hard-to-find items to the children of Holland."*

*Why did Katje say the USA was "the land of plenty."*

Read pp. 4-7 (letter transparencies 1-2)

*Read the letter with me. What did Rosie mean by "brighten your day?" Turn to your partner and talk about what you know so far about postwar Holland?*

*What did you learn about Katje as a person so far?*

Read pp. 8-10 (transparency 2-3)

*Find the line in Katje's letter that gave Rosie the idea to send sugar.*

Read pp. 11-12.

(transparency 4) *Find the line (s) that encouraged Rosie to send another box.*

Read pp. 13-15

*What did you notice about the townspeople in this part of the story? What is different about them?*

Read pp. 16

(transparency 5) *After reading Rosie's letter, tell your partner what you are thinking.*

Read pp. 17-18 (transparency 6) *What is the most important part of this letter?*

Read pp. 19-24 (transparency 1, 7) *Read Rosie's letter with me.*

*Compare the first letter with this last letter from Rosie. Explain the difference between them.*

Read pp. 25-30

*Why was this the perfect gift?*

Closing Activity: write a letter from Rosie to Katje about receiving the gift of tulips. What would she say?