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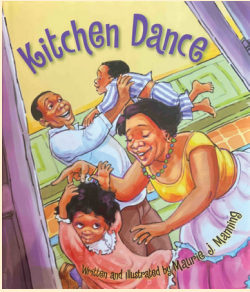
Please enjoy this complimentary excerpt from Text Structures From Picture Books [Grades 2-8].

[LEARN MORE](#) about this title!

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Kitchen Dance

by Maurie J. Manning



Summary: When a brother and sister wake up from sleep to find their parents dancing while cleaning up the kitchen, the children get swept up in the dancing and singing. This sweet book celebrates family and culture.

Why We Love It: This book was recommended by a coworker, and when we finished it, we immediately read it again. It takes a simple, everyday moment (children going to bed and parents tidying up) and elevates it to a touching story of family, joy, and togetherness. It's such a precious book!

Big Ideas: joy in the little things, family, the power of song, making the mundane fun, joy, love, being together, small moments

1 QUICK WRITE.

- Think about a small, special moment when you were surprised at home, at school, with friends, with family. Write about this for 3 minutes and then set it aside.

2 READ.

Read the picture book *Kitchen Dance* and discuss the story. Discuss parts of the story that stick out to you or that you connect with. What writer's craft moves do you notice the author using? Notice the parts of the story.

3 CRAFT MOVES TO NOTICE.

- Onomatopoeia ("Scrape! Splash! Clunk! Clang!")
- Pitchforked absolutes ("I hear kitchen sounds. Glasses clinking. Water swishing. Forks clattering.")
- The repeated use of Spanish song lyrics with translation ("¡Cómo te quiero! Oh, how I love you.")
- Sensory details ("A bright skirt flashes by!" "My father sings a Spanish song into a wooden spoon.")
- Zooming in on a small moment

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4 SHARE THE STRUCTURE.

Show the students the structure found in the picture book. Reread the story, looking for chunks together and watching for how the author moves from one part to the other.

A Special Moment I Want to Keep

Where I was
and what
unusual thing I
heard or saw

What I did
about it

The surprising
thing I saw
or heard

How it felt

5 INVITATION TO WRITE.

Here are several ways you can get students to write.

- Have students use the text structure to write a kernel essay summary of the story. (Give them between 5 and 10 minutes to do this.)
- Have the students use the text structure to write their own piece in a kernel essay. (Give them between 5 and 10 minutes to do this.)
- See what students come up with. (Give them around 10 minutes.) Here are some possibilities:
 - A page of thoughts in their quick write
 - Examples of the author's craft moves
 - A text structure

Whatever they choose to write, let them know that they can change anything they need to and make it their own.

6 SHARE.

Invite students to try their writing on someone else's ears. This is a crucial step! The sharing is just as important as the writing.

Want to Go Deeper?

Try These Options.

OPTION 1: CRAFT CHALLENGE

Sensory Details

In this story, the author uses *lots* of sensory details to pull readers into the small moment, as if we were there, too.

Here are some examples from the story:

“A bright skirt flashes by!” – sight

“My father sings a Spanish song into a wooden spoon.” – sight and sound

“I hear kitchen sounds. Glasses clinking. Water swishing. Forks clattering.” – sound

Look through your piece and see where you can try adding a few sensory details to help pull your reader into your small moment. Try it out on someone’s ears to see how it sounds in your writing.

OPTION 2: ANALYZE

1. Start with a big idea.

- If you want students to find the big ideas themselves, try asking, *What big ideas do you see in this story that tell you what it’s really about?*
- If students need a nudge, try using some of the big ideas from the list below and then asking them to provide evidence from the story to support their answers. **Ask:** *How is this story about (big idea)? How does the author explore the big idea of _____? Where in the story do you see that?*

2. Turn the big idea into a truism (thematic statement).

- Once you have identified the big ideas, use one of them to create truisms for this story. Here are some examples from this story:
 - A good song can move people.
 - Some of the best moments with family are found in the ordinary.
 - Have students write and share their own truisms.

Ask them to prove their truisms by providing evidence from the text. They might imagine a listener saying, “Oh yeah? How do you know? How is that true in the story?”

OPTION 3: READING RESPONSE

Students can compose short or extended responses to demonstrate understanding by answering any of these questions. Look in the appendix to find “Basic Reading Response Text Structures” and a list of additional question stems.

Questions for Reading Response

- What is this story really about?
- Why does the author include sound words (onomatopoeic words) at the beginning of the story?
- Why is this small moment in the kitchen special?
- What can the reader conclude from the parents’ reactions to the kids being awake?
- How did the author help the reader visualize this moment? (Imagine the pictures weren’t there.)

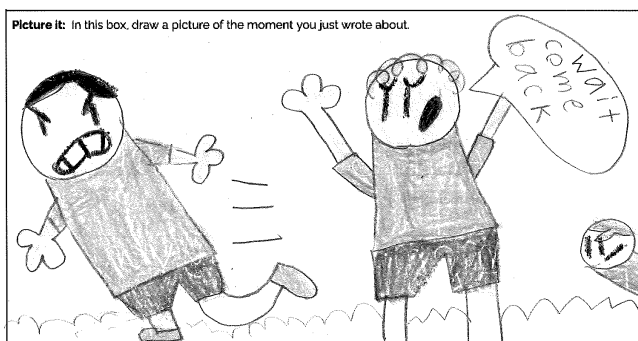
QUICK WRITES

Wilson Berg, second grade

Having an unexpected play date!

Brandt Barnes, second grade

My friend Eli got sad and frustrated. That shocked me.



Henry Ketabchi, second grade

My aunt surprised me and told me that she is having a baby. Yay!

Caleb Jacob, second grade

A bug was on my head.

George Williams, second grade

When Calab made a one-handed catch.

Ryan Bolner, second grade

I got a present in the middle of the year!

George Ahl, second grade

I was going to the Texas Longhorns basketball game.

KERNEL ESSAYS

Brandt Barnes, second grade

Retelling the Story

1. She was in her bed.
2. She got out of bed.
3. Her mom and dad were dancing.
4. She felt surprised! This moment was very exciting.

TRUISMS

Max Holmes, sixth grade

Sometimes doing boring tasks with friends and family can make them fun.

CRAFT CHALLENGE: SENSORY DETAILS

Max Holmes, sixth grade

One time I was surprised by my parents was on my birthday. Instead of going to school, they took me to Six Flags with my best friend. I had never been to Six Flags, so I was excited. Seeing all the big roller coasters zoom and whoosh by was awesome. I remember this moment to this day because it was a great time with my family and friends.

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Student Examples

READING RESPONSES

Max Holmes, sixth grade

Text Structure: RACE

Q: What is this story really about?

A: This story is really about family. I know this because you can see the

husband and wife turning a boring time cleaning the kitchen into a fun time. And when they see their kids out of bed, they don't scold them, they let them join in on the fun. This shows that this book is about how important and good it is to be in a loving family.

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