

Chrysanthemum
by Kevin Henkes

Vocabulary:

scarcely - almost not at all; by only a small amount of time, space, etc.

fascinating - very interesting or appealing

priceless - extremely valuable or important

precious - greatly loved, valued, or important

winsome - cheerful, pleasant, and appealing

jealous - feeling or showing an unhappy or angry desire to have what someone else has

begrudgingly - said, done, or given in a reluctant way

discontented - not happy with your situation, position, etc.; not contented

jaundiced - feeling or showing dislike, distrust, or anger because of past experiences; likely to think that people, organizations, etc., are bad

trifle - to a small degree; slightly

epilogue - a final section or speech after the main part of a book, play, or musical composition.

Discussion questions:

How did your parents choose your name? Have you ever been unhappy with your name?

How have you chosen names for your children?

When the other children made fun of Chrysanthemum, the author wrote, "Chrysanthemum wilted." We usually use the word wilted to describe a flower. The author writes about Chrysanthemum as if she is a flower. This is a metaphor. What other examples of metaphor are in the story?

Does the story remind you of a time when you were ashamed of something you were once proud of? A time when you were picked on for something you didn't understand?

Chrysanthemum's parents comforted her in several ways. What were they? What helps you feel better when you have a bad day?

What additional information do the illustrations give us about the parents?

Is this a book you would read to a child you know?

What lessons might a child learn from this book?

Re-read the story and ask questions about anything you don't understand.

If there is time, read one page at a time, with each student taking a turn to read.