

The Littlest Angel 6 – Lily Gets in a Pink Pickle

Author: Elizabeth Pulford

Synopsis

Ever since Lily had been awarded her first Silver Star she has been allowed into new parts of Amelia's Angel Academy such as the Sacred Space of Knowledge and the Lagoon room. It is inside a book in the Sacred Space of Knowledge that Lily finds an advertisement for the Cherub Cat Show. She is excited when she finds out that a cat show is taking place because her kitten Petal is sweet and well-behaved. Surely she will win the prize for the most angelic cat. When Angel Laurestine finds Lily the entry form for the cat show Lily is convinced that it is a sign. Mother Angel readily agrees to let Lily enter Petal and Lily heads to the Seraph Cat Centre to register.

Everything is going perfectly until Lily is summoned to Professor Glumbo's room because his reserve wings need washing. When Lily mentions the cat show to him he assumes that his grumpy old cat Frumplepuss is the one being entered. Professor Glumbo is so excited at the prospect of the cat show that Lily doesn't have the heart to disappoint him. Clearly both cats will need to be in the show. This isn't the only problem that Lily has to solve however. There is a disaster in the Wings Washing Room and Professor Glumbo's wings are now pink! Will Lily be able to turn them white again or will she have to confess to Professor Glumbo?

Text Type

The Littlest Angel gets in a pink pickle is the 6th book in the Elizabeth Pulford's delightful new series The Littlest Angel. Perfect for young girls aged 6–9 years, the story contains named chapters and beautiful illustrations that ensure readers will remain engaged. Each of the series features a beautiful foiled cover and number 6's interior text and illustrations are printed in bright red. Girls will be eager to collect each book as it is published to see what adventure or mischief Lily gets into next.

The story is humorous and the characters are loveable. Lily is a charming main character who is intrinsically good hearted and caring. The fact that she is also a bit unlucky and accident-prone makes her even more likeable. Lily is kind and giving – in fact she has all the right qualities to make her a perfect angel!

Sharing the Novel

The novel has been divided up as follows: Chapter 1 (pp. 5–10), Chapters 2–7 (pp. 11–46) and Chapters 8–14 (pp. 47–88).

During the shared session encourage students to ask questions to clarify their understanding of words and ideas presented in the text. Have them make predictions and inferences. Students should be reading for enjoyment. Looking at the illustrations will help them understand the storyline and enter into Lily's world of angels and magic.

Introducing the Novel

Have students study the front cover of the novel and read the blurb.

- Who is the main character in the story? What is an angel? What words and objects do you associate with angels?
- What number in the series of *The Littlest Angel* is this book? Have you read any of the others? If so, what do you already know about Lily?
- What do you think happens to Professor Glumbo's wings?
- Who does Lily think might spoil the cat show?

Teacher reads Chapter 1 (pp. 5–10) aloud to the class. Students follow along in their books.

Comprehension Chapter 1 (pp. 5–10)

- What is in the Sacred Space of Knowledge? Why does Lily gaze around in wonder?
- What job is Lily given in the Sacred Space of Knowledge? Why is she determined to do a good job?
- How does Lily discover the Cherub Cat Show advertisement?
- What is the fee to enter the show? Who does Lily think will be perfect for the show?

Discussion

- What qualities do you think an angel should possess?
- What sorts of things do you think might go on at Amelia's Angel Academy?
- What do we learn about Lily in Chapter one?

Students read Chapters 2–7 (pp. 11–46) independently before the next shared session.

Comprehension Chapters 2–7 (pp. 11–46)

- What surprising information does Angel Laurestine give Lily about the cat show? Why doesn't she think it would be a good idea for Frumplepuss to enter?

- What does Angel Laurestine tell Lily about Angel Mercy-May? Why does this make Lily think twice about entering?
- Why does Lily think that “the angel of destiny” has spoken?
- Who does Lily need to seek permission from to enter the cat show?
- Why is Mother Angel initially unsure about letting Lily enter Petal in the competition? Why does she change her mind? What suggestion does she make to Lily about the entry form?
- Why is Lily pleased that Tisa isn’t in their room after lunch?
- What does “caterwauling” mean?
- What does Lily use as her silver donation?
- Where did Lily live before she came to Amelia’s Angel Academy?
- Why does it take Lily such a long time to register Petal?
- What urgent message does Cleo give Lily when she arrives back at the Academy?
- Why doesn’t Lily really like visiting Professor Glumbo?
- Why does Lily decide to tell Professor Glumbo about the cat show? What misunderstanding occurs?
- Why doesn’t Lily want to tell Professor Glumbo that she didn’t mean Frumplepuss?
- Why does Winger O’Reilly think that when things go wrong it can be a positive thing?
- Why doesn’t Lily like washing duty?
- What does Lily notice about the water in tub seven? What caused the water to change colour? What happens to Professor Glumbo’s wings?

Discussion

- What does the fact that Lily doesn’t want to disappoint Professor Glumbo suggest about her character?
- What would you do if you were in Lily’s position and had turned Professor Glumbo’s only wings pink?
- What do you think is going to happen in the story next?

Students read Chapters 8–14 (pp. 47–88) independently before the next shared session.

Comprehension Chapters 8–14 (pp. 47–88)

- Why does Lily decide to go and see Winger O'Reilly?
- How does she manage to get the wings out of the Wings Washing Room without anyone noticing?
- How does Winger O'Reilly react when he sees the pink wings? What advice does he offer Lily? Why doesn't Lily think this is very helpful?
- How does Lily feel when she leaves Winger O'Reilly's room?
- What are the rules for the cat show? Why does Tisa think that there won't be many cats left at the end of the show?
- Why doesn't Lily want to ask anyone for help getting Petal and Frumplepuss to the Seraph Cat Centre? What solution does she come up with on her own?
- Why does Professor Glumbo's behaviour make Lily nervous?
- How does Lily feel when she finds out that Professor Glumbo plans to go to the cat show? What problem does this create for her?
- How does Professor Glumbo react when Lily makes her confession? Why is Lily surprised by his reaction?
- Describe the scene when Lily arrives at the cat show.
- Who does Lily speak to about including Frumplepuss in the show? Why is she so eager to be accommodating?
- Describe Angel Mercy-May. Why isn't her name very appropriate?
- What does Lily assume the nets are for?
- How does Professor Glumbo make his grand entrance? What comes in with him? Describe the chaos that ensues.
- Why doesn't Petal become involved in all the chaos? Where does Lily find Frumplepuss? How does he react when she picks him up?
- How does Angel Mercy-May decide to choose the winners?
- What does Lily win? Why does she giggle when she realises that Angel Mercy-May has missed out this year? What does Lily decide to do with her medals?

Discussion

- What lesson do you think Lily learns from her experiences?
- Do you agree that sometimes it is better to be honest? Why/why not?
- Why is it important not to make assumptions about people?
- Do you think Lily cheated in the cat contest? Why/why not?

Activities

Static Image – Design a poster advertising the Cherub Cat Show.

Writing – Write a letter to a friend explaining why they should read *The Littlest Angel: Lily gets in a pink pickle*.

Puzzle – Make a crossword puzzle or word find for the book.

Character – Write a paragraph about Lily's character. Use quotes and examples from the story to back up your ideas.

Poem – Write a poem about the story.

Static Image – Design a model of Amelia's Angel Academy.

Author – Make up five interview questions for the author of the book.

Writing – Write a storyline for the next book in *The Littlest Angel* series.

Personal Effects – Put together a collection of Lily's personal effects (objects or things that are important to her). Explain the significance of these items to Lily.

Script – Choose an important event from the story and write a script for it. Remember to include a list of characters and stage directions. Practise your play and present it to the class.

Plot Graph – Identify 10 important events in the text. Draw a graph. Label the vertical axis "Level of excitement". Along the horizontal axis list the 10 events in the order that they occur. Plot each event on the graph according to its level of excitement.

Notes written by Vicki Ladd