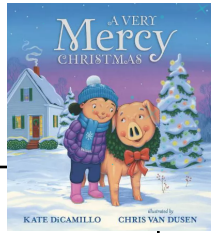


JOYcabulary



Title: <i>A Very Mercy Christmas</i>	Author: Kate Di Camillo
Genre/Unit: Narrative	Warm Up: <i>Joy to the World</i>

Mercy Watson and friends are back to spread **JOY** to some unwilling neighbors. Grab some hot buttered toast as Stella Endicott embarks on a mission to create something miraculous.

Objective: Story structure and character work

Standard: ELA Vocabulary Acquisition

Knowledge Building: perseverance

Vocabulary

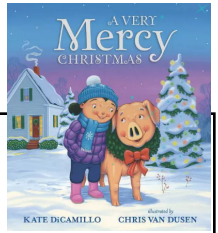
Tier 2 Word	Page	Student Friendly Definition (kids.wordsmyth.net, collinsdictionary.com, ldoceonline.com)
intend	3	to plan for a specific purpose; to have something in mind as something to do
spontaneity/spontaneous	3, 8	a willingness to behave in a way that is not thought out or planned/to happen without outside causes or forces
persevere (concept word)		To keep going even when something is difficult
involved	4	complicated and complex because of many different steps
miraculous	3, 6, 29	like a miracle; amazing; incredible
appeared	11	to come into view; become visible
muster	14	to gather up from within oneself; to cause to come together

Warm Up Poem:

Lyrics to *Joy to the World*

Page #	Accountable Talk Vocabulary, comprehension strategies, think alouds, and student talk.	JOYcabulary Getting students to own their words: speaking, reading, and writing.
Before Reading	Let's study the cover. Look closely at Stella and Mercy. What words can we collect to describe them and their relationship?	precarious endeavor accompany cacophonous

JOYcabulary



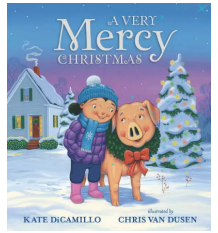
Back Blurb: That is a HUGE stack of buttered toast! I wonder what they are celebrating?
 Front Flyleaf: Sounds like Stella has a big problem. I wonder how she will solve it.

contributions

<p>During Reading P. 2-3</p>	<p>Look at Stella. How can you tell she is excited and joyful?</p>	<p>spur of the moment</p>
<p>P. 4-5</p>	<p>Notice the difference between the expressions on Mrs. Watson and Mercy's faces. What words could we collect to describe their feelings? Infer: Why does Mrs. Watson think it would be helpful for Stella to take Mercy with her?</p>	<p>worried anxious concerned out of hand</p>
<p>P. 6-9</p>	<p>I'm beginning to notice a pattern: first Frank, then Mrs. Watson and Eugenia Lincoln. Predict: How do you think the story will proceed?</p>	
<p>P. 10-15</p>	<p>Stella - even though she is feeling less joy - does not give up. What does this tell you about the kind of person she is? How do Mercy and General Washington help her make her decision?</p>	<p>Gather words to describe Stella top of her lungs persevere</p>
<p>P. 16-19</p>	<p>Study the picture on P19. Even though the singing was "not very musical," the carolers seem happy. Why do you suppose that is true?</p>	
<p>P. 20-30</p>	<p>Did you predict how the story would end? What clues did you use to help you make your prediction? Which character surprised you the most? Why?</p>	

<p>After Reading</p>	<p>What messages/lessons are the author sharing with us?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● perseverance ● friendship 	
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JOYcabulary



Extensions:

Yea or Nay?

- When you *intend* to do something, you make a plan.
- When you are *involved* with something, you are easily distracted.
- When you do something every day, you are being *spontaneous*.
- When things go as planned, it is *miraculous*.
- When you give up on a challenge right away, you are *persevering*.

Writing Craft Moves:

- o reveal problem right on the first page P3
- o Magic 3 P3
- o using parentheses to insert a bit more information P9
- o page layout to support text P22-23
- o repetition P28
- o complex sentence P28
- o dialogue: throughout book
- o story structure: add-on
- o character work: character change
- o using character's first and last names

Related Titles:

- *Mercy Watson* series by Kate DiCamillo

Word Relationships: Synonyms & Antonyms

intend	spontaneous
plan mean aim	impulsive free impetuous prepared
attempt	miraculous
try, aspire, tackle	wonderful, incredible, astonishing
involved	attempt
engaged absorbed immersed engrossed	try undertake tackle