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Billie B. Brown: The Beautiful Haircut

By Sally Rippin, Illustrated by Aki Fukuoka

Learning Outcomes

Students will:

- Engage with the characters.
- Find information within a text and present this in a simple table.
- Attempt to describe emotions in a creative manner.
- Develop writing skills.

About the Story:

Billie is a very good hairdresser. In fact, she is so good that she can make any hair look great! So why won't Jack play hairdressers with Billie? Fortunately for Billie, she has a lot of customers to practice on and she doesn't have time to worry about Jack at all. But after lots of clipping, combing and smoothing, Billie gets bored and decides that she should cut hair too! With one snip, Billie quickly realizes that cutting hair is something that only a real hairdresser should do. It also leaves Billie wondering who will help her fix her hairdressing mistake.

Before You Read the Story:

Read the back-cover blurb aloud. Ask students to predict what will happen when Billie decides to cut hair. Do they think Billie is really the best hairdresser in the world? Now look at the front cover. Read the title aloud. Again, ask students for predictions about the story.

Questions and Activities:

Chapter One

- Today is Billie's turn to choose a game for her and Jack to play together. What is the game?
- Does Jack agree to play the game? Why do you think he made this choice?
- Billie has lots of customers and doesn't have time to worry about Jack not playing her game. Who do you think Billie is talking about?

Activity: In this story, Billie plays a game pretending to be a hairdresser. Do you ever play pretend games? If so, write about one of your favorite pretend games.

Chapter Two

- Why do you think Billie has so many dolls that need help to look lovely again?
- Which doll do you think would be the most difficult to make beautiful? Why?
- Why does Billie think that her dolls make very good customers?
- When Billie gets tired of just styling her dolls' hair, what does she decide to do? Do you think this is a good idea? Why or why not?



Activity: Billie's dolls really aren't very lovely to look at! Luckily, Billie is able to make them look beautiful again! Use the information found in this chapter to complete the customer chart on the next page. Imagine that you are one of Billie's customers and include your visit to Billie at the bottom.

Billie B.'s Beauty Room		
Customer's Name	Hair Problem	Billie's Solution

Chapter Three

- Billie decides to use the bathroom scissors for her game. Why does she choose these scissors? Do you agree with her decision? Why or why not?
- "It lies there looking like a little furry mouse." What is Billie talking about?
- What does Billie think about her new haircut? What are her two wishes?
- When Jack walks into the bathroom, "his eyes are as big as tennis balls." What does this tell us about Jack's reaction to Billie's haircut?

Activity: Jack is so surprised to see Billie's funny haircut. Instead of just saying that Jack looked surprised, the author says that Jack's eyes were as big as tennis balls!

Use a mirror to practice the following feelings. Look at your reflection. See if you can come up with a creative way of describing how you look when your face shows that feeling. Share your expressions and ideas with friends, then write them down. The first few are done for you.

Feeling	What that feeling looks like
Surprised	Eyes as big as tennis balls
Embarrassed	Cheeks as red as strawberries
Happy	
Sad	
Angry	
Tired	
Frightened	
Shy	



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Chapter Four

- How does Billie's mom respond to seeing Billie's funny hair?
- "Billie's mom gives a small smile." Why does she do this?
- Does Billie's mom come up with a solution to Billie's hair disaster? What is it?
- "Jack was right." What makes Billie think this?

Activity: Billie made a really bad decision when she used the sharp scissors to give herself a little haircut. Fortunately, Billie's mom knew just what to do. Write about a bad decision you have made. Did you go to anybody for help?

Teacher Tips adapted from Hardie Grant Egmont.