

A Sofia Special

Discussion Guide

Grades Pre-K – 3

Before Reading: to activate schema, build background knowledge, and set a purpose.

- Discuss the idea of a sideways or challenging day can look like.
- Before reading, have a class discussion to activate prior knowledge about what can make some people have a bad day, and then what can turn that bad day around. Make a list of student generated responses on an anchor chart or whiteboard.
- Frontload vocabulary: challenging, dancing, twirling, friendship, mountain of a mess, berries, Dad Special, Sofia Special, sharing, smiling

During Reading: to engage students, check for understanding, and make connections.

- What things are happening to Sofia to make her have a challenging day?
- Are the illustrations helpful in seeing what is happening to Sofia in the story? Why?
- What does Sofia’s dad mean when he suggests that she “flip those things around?”

After Reading: to summarize, question, and reflect.

Use a chart to illustrate the different types of berries that Sofia decided would be delicious on her Dad Special. Be sure to spell the berry names correctly. How are the different in shape, style, and taste. Ask if any of the students have a favorite berry, or if anyone is allergic to a particular berry.

If your students enjoyed this book...

- Encourage them to continue to discuss it and refer to it in other lessons and conversations.
- Let them explore more about the topic by reading other books with similar themes, structure, characters, or content.