

*Jenny Mei is Sad*  
**Discussion Guide**  
Grades Pre-K – 3<sup>rd</sup>

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

- Start by asking students, “Have you ever noticed when a friend was sad? How did you make them feel better?” (Optional: Pair Share)
- Read aloud the inside cover to preview the story. Set a purpose for reading, “As we read, think about how the girl is there for her friend Jenny Mei when she is sad.”

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

- How does the girl describe Jenny Mei?
- How does Jenny Mei show that she is having a bad day? How do her actions make her classmates feel?
- What might have Jenny Mei and her teacher been talking about?
- In what ways is the girl being a good friend to Jenny Mei?

**After Reading: to summarize, question, and reflect.**

- Revisit the purpose for reading, “What did we learn about Jenny Mei? How was the girl there for her friend?”
- People don’t always show how they are feeling. Ask, “What are some ways you can tell when someone is sad?”
- As a class, brainstorm a list of ways to help a friend feel better when they are sad. Tell students to think of someone who might need a “pick-me-up”. Have them write a letter or draw a picture for them.

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 books about being a good friend such as [\*Elephant and Piggie: My Friend Is Sad.\*](#)