

# Where This Fits in Your Year

Alabama | Grade 1 | ELA | Stephanie's Ponytail

Place this lesson in a Grade 1 character-comprehension sequence when students are learning to use what a character says and does as evidence. Students compare Stephanie's calm, repeated answer when classmates insult her ponytail with her angry response when they copy it. They record both responses, notice that the insult reply stays almost unchanged across rounds, and then use the bald-class ending to explain how her final words echo the class's own insult.

The strongest curriculum connection is usually to expectations about describing characters from key details. Students do more than name a trait: they compare two responses to different situations and explain the contrast from dialogue and action. That substantially practices character analysis, although a broader standard may also require setting, plot, explicit trait naming, or a central-message connection that this lesson does not require.

Use this after students can locate what a character says in the text. The lesson is especially useful for showing that a character does not respond the same way to every challenge, and that repeated dialogue can make a change in response easier to see.

## STRONGEST CURRICULUM CONNECTION

### REINFORCES

Describe characters using illustrations and textual evidence (AL.ELA.1.23) Student evidence: Students use dialogue, actions, and illustrations to explain a character or event pattern.

Limitation: The lesson does not require all main story elements or a full retelling.

### TEACHER MUST ADD FOR BROADER EVIDENCE

Add explicit trait naming, setting/plot work, or a central-message connection if your local expectation requires those elements.

### REVIEW STATUS: READY

Source: 2021 Alabama Course of Study: English Language Arts | Grade 1

This regional page changes curriculum placement only. The four-page canonical Skill Lesson that follows is unchanged.

Stephanie's Ponytail | What Stephanie Says Back | Alabama

TumbleTA | Regional Skill Lesson

## TUMBLETA | ELA SKILL LESSON

# Stephanie's Ponytail

### What Stephanie Says Back

GRADE 1 · 33 minutes FULL · 17 minutes SHORT

### PRIMARY SKILL

Compare a character's responses to two different situations

|                 |                                                                            |
|-----------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| OBJECTIVE       | Compare how Stephanie answers an insult with how she answers being copied. |
| STUDENT PRODUCT | Two speech bubbles, and the last word                                      |
| FOCUS           | A character's response, the same every time until it is not                |

|                    |                                                           |
|--------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|
| ESSENTIAL QUESTION | Why does being copied upset her more than being insulted? |
|--------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|

## BEFORE TEACHING

|                   |                                                                            |
|-------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Materials:</b> | The book; Passages 2, 6, 11 and 12 marked; one response sheet per student. |
|-------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|

Text to mark: Passages 2 and 6 - repeated insult and reply. Passage 11 - bald class. Passage 12 - final picture.

## FULL ROUTE

### TIME

### TEACHER MOVE

### STUDENT WORK

4 min

Read one insult and Stephanie's repeated reply.

Notice the calm, unchanged response.

|               |                                                                                                                                                    |
|---------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>7 min</b>  | Compare her reply from two rounds. Model what she does not argue about: whether the Describe what stays the same. ponytail looks nice.             |
| <b>12 min</b> | Compare what she says when insulted with what she says when copied. Record the contrast: calm at the insult, furious at the copying.               |
| <b>10 min</b> | Use the bald-class ending and last picture to record her final words and what the picture Explain how she hands the class's own adds. insult back. |

## TEACHER GUIDANCE

# Stephanie's Ponytail

## What Stephanie Says Back

### WHY THIS TEXT WORKS

The contrast does the teaching. Stephanie does not defend how the ponytail looks; she says it is hers and she likes it. Copying produces a completely different response. Keep the complication: Stephanie is unkind too, and the last picture supports that reading.

### ASSESSMENT

- Gives Stephanie's reply to the insult.
- Says the reply is the same every time.
- Says she gets angry about being copied.
- Uses copycats or brainless copycats.
- Says she calls the bald children ugly at the end.

### SHORT ROUTE

3 min launch; 5 min model; 9 min compare the two responses and finish with the last word.

### KEEP THE CLAIM TIGHT

Assess only the named skill. Do not turn a correct partial explanation into a broader claim the student has not shown.

## STUDENT PAGE

# Stephanie's Ponytail

### What Stephanie Says Back

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

#### WHEN THEY INSULT HER PONYTAIL

What does Stephanie say? How does she sound?

#### WHEN THEY COPY HER

What does Stephanie say? How does she sound?

#### THE LAST WORD

What does she say to the bald class at the end?

## TEACHER KEY

# Stephanie's Ponytail

### What Stephanie Says Back

#### INSULT

When they call the ponytail ugly, Stephanie stays calm. She says it is her ponytail and she likes it. She does not argue that it looks nice.

#### COPYING

When they copy her, she loses her temper and calls them copycats / brainless copycats.

#### ENDING

At the end she gives their own insult back to them and calls the bald class ugly.