



Billie B. Brown: The Best Project

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Illustrated by Aki Fukuoka

Learning Outcomes

Students will:

- Explore the concept of a city.
- Define and create a sculpture.

About the Story:

Billie is building a fancy tower for a school project, but it is proving a lot harder to build than she imagined. Luckily, Billie's dad is on hand to help and, with a little bit of strong glue, the tower turns out perfect! Now all that's left is to wait for the glue to dry and put it in a safe place, out of the reach of her pesky baby brother who touches everything. But after Billie puts on her pajamas, brushes her teeth and listens to a story, she falls asleep, forgetting the very last job she had to do. In fact it's not until the next morning when Billie and her dad spy baby Noah with a popsicle stick and a bit of pipe cleaner hanging out of his mouth that she remembers. By then it's too late and her tower is in pieces. But Billie's anger quickly turns to excitement as she hurriedly creates something even more magnificent than her fancy tower, so magnificent in fact, that it ends up in the middle of the model city.

Before You Read the Story:

Read the title of the story to the students. Assist students to define what a project is. Invite students to refer to the front cover illustration and predict what Billie's project might be. Now turn to the back cover and read the blurb aloud. Confirm that Billie's project involves constructing a tower. Note the mention of Billie's baby brother and ask students to predict how Billie's brother and her tower may be connected in the story.

Questions and Activities:

Chapter One

- *Twelve pipe cleaners, one glue stick and twenty-seven popsicle sticks* – what is Billie building?
- Billie feels so angry that her head feels fizzy. What has happened to make Billie feel this way?
- What suggestion did Billie's dad make? Do you have any suggestions for Billie that will help her to finish this project?

Activity: Assist students to define what a city is. Use various images of the city to identify the services and structures you would expect to find in a city. Record these ideas.

Chapter Two

- How does Billie manage to finish her tower?
- What does Billie hope will happen when she takes it to school?
- Billie goes to bed forgetting something very important. What is it and why was this so important?



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Activity: Revisit the list of services, structures and features of a city on the board. Ask students to choose a structure or service to build out of craft materials and construct a model city like Billie and her class.

Chapter Three

- Why is Billie feeling very sleepy this morning?
- "The tower!" What causes Billie and her dad to shout these words?
- "Noah! You ruined my school project!" Is this statement true? Why or why not?

Activity: Discuss Noah's actions in this chapter. Highlight that while ruining Billie's tower was not his fault, it still caused Billie a lot of grief. Ask students to think about a time when a sibling or friend did something accidental that made them angry or upset. Give students the opportunity to share their stories.

Chapter Four

- Billie is happy about her new project but she also has butterflies in her tummy. What is Billie concerned about?
- What has Billie made for the class city?
- What is a sculpture and where did Billie get the idea to make one?
- Why does Billie's classmate, Lola, frown after Billie presented her sculpture to Miss Swan?

Activity: Present students with images that depict a variety of sculptures. Use these images to define what a sculpture is. Using these images as inspiration, present students with a range of craft materials such as foam blocks, wire, modeling clay and paint and instruct students to create their own sculpture. Consider a sculpture walk through the city or a relevant state park to conclude this project.

Teacher Tips adapted from Hardie Grant Egmont.