

LITERATURE: The Relatives Came by Cynthia Rylant

Objectives:

- Students will listen to and engage with the picture book *The Relatives Came* by Cynthia Rylant.
- They will discuss the story's themes, characters, and events through guided questions and group activities.
- Students will also practice pre-writing activities using text-to-self connections to prepare for future writing tasks.

Materials/Resources:

- *The Relatives Came* by Cynthia Rylant (picture book or YouTube Read Aloud and a digital device)
- Lined writing paper with drawing box

Instructions:

1. Read-Aloud Time

- **Introduction:** Introduce *The Relatives Came* by Cynthia Rylant. Ask "Have you ever had relatives come to visit? How did you feel when they came?"
- **Read the Book:** Read the book aloud, stopping occasionally to point out illustrations and ask simple comprehension questions. For example:
 - "How do the relatives feel when they arrive at the house?"
 - "What are some things the characters in the story do when they spend time together?"

2. Text-to-Self Discussion

- **Guided Discussion:** After reading, ask your student(s) to think about their own experiences with relatives visiting. Engage in a discussion by asking questions like:
 - "What do you like to do when your relatives visit?"
 - "How do you feel when someone in your family comes to stay with you?"
 - "What happens in the story when the relatives leave? Does it remind you of anything?"
- **Text-to-Self Connections:** Encourage your student(s) to connect the story to their own lives. Ask them to share their experiences of family visits, special memories, or the emotions they felt. Write their responses on notebook paper or a white board, organizing them by theme (e.g., "emotions," "activities," "problems," "benefits," etc.). Write two sentence starters to help during independent time:
 - When family comes to visit, we _____.
 - During a family celebration, we _____.

3. Pre-Writing Activity

- **Drawing and Writing:** Ask student(s) to:
 - Draw a picture of relatives coming to visit or a family celebration.

- Write one or two sentences describing the event drawn. They can reference the notebook/whiteboard as needed for sentence starters and words that were brainstormed during discussion.

Assist as needed, prompting the student(s) to think about the emotions and experiences they want to include.

4. Sharing

- **Sharing Time:** Have the student(s) share their picture and sentences. This can be immediately after the activity or with the family during or after dinner.
- **Discussion:** Ask questions. For example:
 - “I see you drew a picture of playing games! What games do you like to play when family visits?”
 - “What was the best part of the family celebration?”

5. Closing and Reflection

- **Wrap-Up Discussion:** Teach the student(s) that a theme is the message an author wants to convey to his/her audience. Ask the student(s):
 - “What do you think the author wanted us to learn about family visits?”
- **Review:** Remind the student(s) of the themes in the story, such as the joy of family visits and the importance of family connections. Emphasize how both the story and their personal experiences share common emotions and events.