

Sam's New Sister by Michelle Olson Teachers Guide

For vocabulary development with older children or more efficient readers, use context clues and other strategies to elicit meaning. If the student needs more assistance, simply explain the meaning of the unfamiliar word.

Before reading the book, ask, "What do you notice about the cover? What do you think this book is about?"

Title page: Read the title of the book and author. Reinforce that this page tells who wrote the book, illustrated (drew the pictures), or, in this case, used a camera to take the picture.

The next page is called the *dedication page*. This is where the author thanks people for their encouragement while she was writing the book. This page also contains information about the company that published (or put the book together and printed it).

Read Pages 3-5:

What do you think "beadball" is?

How do you think Sam feels about not getting to play beadball?

Read Pages 6-9

Can you guess why the other buttons are excited? What do you think is in the bag?

Read Pages 10-11

Vocabulary: What does "adopted" mean? (to take (someone or something) by choice into a relationship)

Why was this new little button in the bag with the clothing? Next time you shop for clothes, see if you can find the extra button in a bag.

Read Pages 12-13

Vocabulary: What does "annoying" mean? (irritating or bothersome)

What is happening on page 13? Why would Sam think this was annoying?

Read Pages 14-17

Vocabulary: What does “masterpiece” mean? (work done with extraordinary skill)

How do you think Sam is feeling? Why do you think Maggie wants to copy Sam?

Read Pages 18-21

Do you think running away is a good option to solve Sam’s problem? What would you do differently?

Read Pages 22-23

How do you think Sam is feeling about his decision to run away?

Read Pages 24-25

Who do you think is calling for Sam?

Read Pages 26-27

Why would Maggie go looking for Sam?

Read Pages 28-29

Vocabulary: Look at the vacuum in the picture. What does “stealth” mean? (movement that is quiet and careful)

Can you guess what is going to happen?

Read Pages 30-35

Why is Sam upset that Maggie went looking for him?

Read Pages 36-37

Do you think Sam handled the situation correctly? What would you have done differently?

Read Pages 38-40

Why is Sam feeling better about being a big brother? What are some other benefits of being an older sibling?