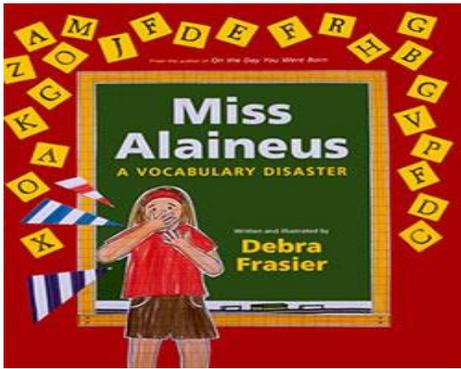


January, 2015

Dear PS 98 Families,

We are very excited to present our January Book of the Month, *Miss Alaineus* by Debra Frasier. It is a wonderful book to complement our school-wide vocabulary initiative. *Miss Alaineus* is about a young 5th grade girl named Sage who experiences an embarrassing moment in school after she misunderstands the definition of one of her vocabulary words– miscellaneous. Both the main and side stories in this book create wonderful opportunities for playing word activities.



“ I was tenth, and when Mrs. Page called out my word, I spelled: ‘Capital M-I-S-S, capital A-L-A-I-N-E-U-S’ and added, ‘the woman on green spaghetti boxes whose hair is the color of uncooked pasta and it turns into spaghetti at the ends.... and the entire class burst into one huge giggling, laughing, falling-down mass of kids ’”

Here are some guiding questions and activities that can help your children thoroughly appreciate and deepen understanding of the text as you read the book with your children:

Before reading:

- Discuss how Debra Frasier (the author/illustrator) created the illustrations for this book. (Read the author/illustrator information on the back inside cover of the book.)

While reading:

- Why did Sage give a wrong definition for miscellaneous? How did Sage feel after she gave the wrong definition?
- Do you remember a time when you gave an answer that you were sure was correct, but turned out to be wrong?
- Can you think of some other words that could be misinterpreted?

After reading:

- Tell how the letters on the end pages are not random. Instead, they include hidden words.
- In **Sage’s Vocabulary Parade Scrapbook**, read aloud her note about her costumes and also Mrs. Joanne Page’s letter to students and parents, as well as the Vocabulary Parade Rules.
- Discuss vocabulary word costume possibilities for our very own parade on January 22nd, 2016.

Happy Reading!

Sincerely,
Book of the Month Team

Questions organized by Revised Bloom's Taxonomy of Higher Order Thinking

Although there are grade band denotations, we found that some questions would be appropriate for all students

Bloom's Taxonomy Level	Possible Questions/ Thinking Maps	
	Grades K-2	Grades 3-5
Remember: Recognize, recall, locate, identify	Who is the main character in <i>Miss Alaineus</i> ? Create a bubble map using adjectives to describe the character.	All of the characters in the story have interesting names. Create a bridge map to show how the name relates to its definition in the dictionary (relating factor: the character's name is _____ and it means _____).
Understand: Clarify, summarize, paraphrase, represent, predict, compare	Why does Sage tell us to "never get sick on vocabulary day?"	Sage doesn't know the proper spelling or meaning of the word "miscellaneous." Create a multi-flow map to describe the causes and effects of this misunderstanding.
Apply: Use procedure in a given situation, carry-out or use with unfamiliar task	How would life be different if we didn't have words to speak or write with?	Why does Sage's mom say "Pride goeth before a fall"? How does this apply to what happens to Sage?
Analyze: Break into parts, distinguish, organize, outline, deconstruct	Sage's mom says, "There's gold in every mistake." What do you think this means?	Sage's mom says, "there is gold in every mistake." What do you think this means?
Evaluate: Make judgments based on criteria, critique	Sage and her classmates go on a field trip to the museum. While there, they laugh at Sage for her mistake. How do you think Sage feels when this happens? Why?	Why do you think the author chose the name Sage for the main character in this story? What is the irony?
Create: Reorganize elements into new patterns, design, construct, produce	Using the Smart Words of the Day from Ms. Kim, choose a vocabulary word that you can dress up as. Create a brace map to describe the parts of the costume.	Tell about a time when you found gold in one of your mistakes. Describe how you felt both, before and after.