

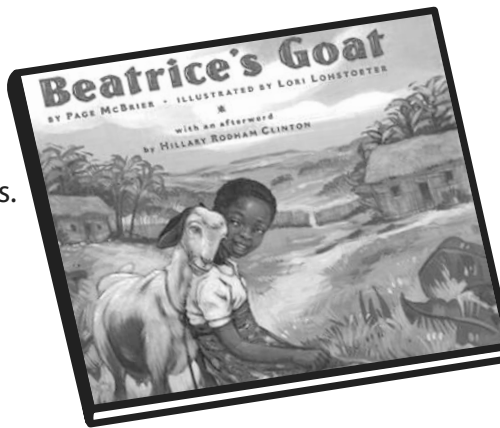
Understanding The Story Of Beatrice And Her Goat

LESSON 1

Objectives

The students will:

- Practice identifying the story's major theme, i.e., how goat ownership allows Beatrice and her family to improve their lives.
- Engage in age-appropriate non-fiction.



Procedure

1. Introduce and read

"Beatrice's Goat." Instruct the students to pay special attention to how Beatrice's lifestyle differs from theirs as well as to how Beatrice and her family's lives improve after receiving the goat.

- #### 2. Identify the main points of the story.
- Ask students to describe Beatrice's life before her family receives a goat: What are some of Beatrice's wishes/dreams? What are some things her family wants/needs but does not have? Now, ask students to identify how Beatrice's family benefits from receiving the goat. Ask them to think also about what might happen after the story's end: In what other ways may Beatrice and her family benefit from their goat?

- #### 3. Discuss the non-fiction aspects of the story.
- Explain to the students that Beatrice is a real person, and that her family's life kept improving. Family members continued selling goat milk and, with that money, they were able to buy needed items, such as a blanket for Paskavia and a new shirt for Moses. Because the goat milk provided a steady source of income for the family, Beatrice was able to spend her time attending school and studying instead of working to grow food. Beatrice graduated from the small school in her village of Kisinga and won a scholarship to attend school in Uganda's capital city of Kampala. From there, she won scholarships to attend high school and college in the United States. Imagine what benefits a goat could bring to other children!

Extension Activities

- Continue the class discussion through student-inspired, creative projects such as music, dance and drama.
- Have students imagine what kinds of songs Beatrice and other characters may sing on their way to and from work or school. Write and perform these songs.
- Dramatize the story of Beatrice and her goat through a puppet show or student-written and performed play.

National Standards Addressed



LANGUAGE ARTS

- Apply a wide range of strategies to comprehend and interpret texts.
- Read texts to build an understanding of the world's cultures.



Links To Heifer International

The Real-life Beatrice

"Beatrice's Goat" is the true story of a girl whose family received the gift of a livestock animal through the Heifer International program. The book may raise many questions in your students' minds about the real Beatrice. To find out more about Beatrice, her family, her village and, of course, her goat, please go to www.HeiferEducation.org. There you will also be able to learn about other real children around the world whose families have participated in Heifer projects.

