

The Amazing Bone

by William Steig

About the book

When I Grow Up

On her way home from school, Pearl observes the grownups in town and thinks about her life as an adult. Ask students to consider their possible future jobs, and to write and illustrate a story describing the reasons for their choices. A career day can also be held in the classroom to introduce students to new possibilities.

Friends Forever

Discuss the unusual friendship between Pearl and the bone. Ask students to list traits possessed by the bone that are conducive to forming a friendship with Pearl.

Students may suggest ideas such as loyalty, kindness, cleverness, sense of humor, and sharing a love of music. Then have students write about their own best friend, describing the basis of their friendship and the activities they enjoy doing together.

Language Learning

Pearl's amazing bone can speak in any language. Ask students if they, too, are multilingual and provide an opportunity for students to demonstrate their language skills to their classmates. Then encourage students to learn a few words in a new language. If students have access to the Internet, the "Say Hello to the World" Web site (www.ipl.org/youth/hello) designed by the Internet Public Library will teach them how to greet one another in a multitude of languages.

Solving Problems

The amazing bone is a resourceful character who succeeds in rescuing Pearl from two terrible predicaments. Ask students to suggest alternative solutions for Pearl's dilemmas. Then ask them to discuss their own experiences with solving difficult problems. Students can work in small groups to help their classmates resolve current issues in their lives. In addition, students can compare and contrast problem-solving techniques as they read other books in which characters cleverly resolve problems (including Steig's *Doctor De Soto*).

For more information visit www.williamsteig.com

Guide created by Sue Ornstein, June 2000