



THE HUNDRED DRESSES

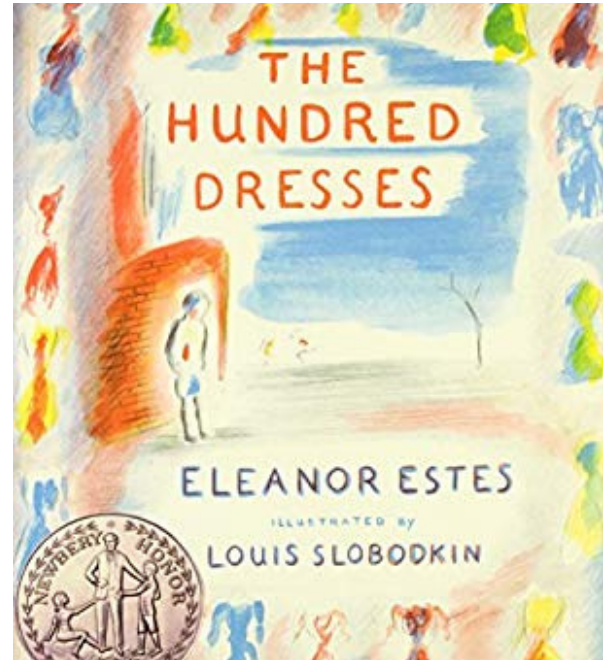
ELEANOR ESTES

When Wanda comes to school, other students tease her for always wearing the same dress.

She tells them she has one hundred dresses at home, and the other girls tease her even more. Wanda moves away, and then the class finds out she won the drawing contest and sees the one hundred beautiful dresses she drew. They wish they could tell her how nice they are, but it's too late.

Questions:

1. Does it sound like the children were waiting to “have fun” with Wanda in a good way or a bad way? Were they waiting to play with her or make fun of her?
2. How would you feel if you didn't have any friends at school and always came to school and went home alone?
3. Why are the girls laughing at Wanda? How do you think that makes her feel? Why do you think she's lying about how many dresses she has?
4. The book says that Peggy is not cruel and protects other children from bullies. Is she cruel to Wanda? Why? Is Wanda being different and having a different last name a good reason to be mean to her?
5. Maddie wants Peggy to stop teasing Wanda, but she doesn't say anything. Maddie and Wanda share a connection. What is it? If Maddie doesn't say anything, will things change? What could she do to make Peggy stop?
6. Why do you think Wanda was coming up to the group of girls who were talking about Cecile's new dress? Why was she being timid and shy?
7. How does teasing Wanda make Peggy feel? How does it make Maddie feel? How does it make Wanda feel?
8. Have you ever been nervous to tell a bully to stop? Why? Why is Maddie nervous?





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Questions:

9. Did Wanda have one hundred dresses? How did the girls feel when they saw her beautiful dress designs?
10. Polack is a word that is not a very nice way to describe someone from Poland, like Wanda and her family. Why did Wanda's family move away?
11. How do you think Maddie felt when she heard that Wanda had moved away because people were mean right after seeing all the very beautiful dresses Wanda had created? How do you think Peggy felt?
12. Even if someone doesn't know they're being made fun of is it okay to make fun of them?
13. How do the girls feel when they realize that they may never get a chance to apologize to Wanda?
14. That night when she can't sleep, what does Maddie decide? Is that something you could do too?
15. How do the girls feel when they realize that Wanda had drawn pictures of them wearing some of her one hundred dresses? If they had been kind to Wanda, do you think they could all have been friends?
16. The woman who wrote this book experienced something very similar to this- only she was not Wanda, but Maddie. When she realized how much she had hurt the girl she knew, she couldn't find her to apologize. Instead, she decided to write this book in order to teach other kids about the power your words can have. She wanted to help kids in the future to NOT make the same mistakes she did. If you have ever been mean to someone, whether on purpose or by accident, what could you do to make it better?