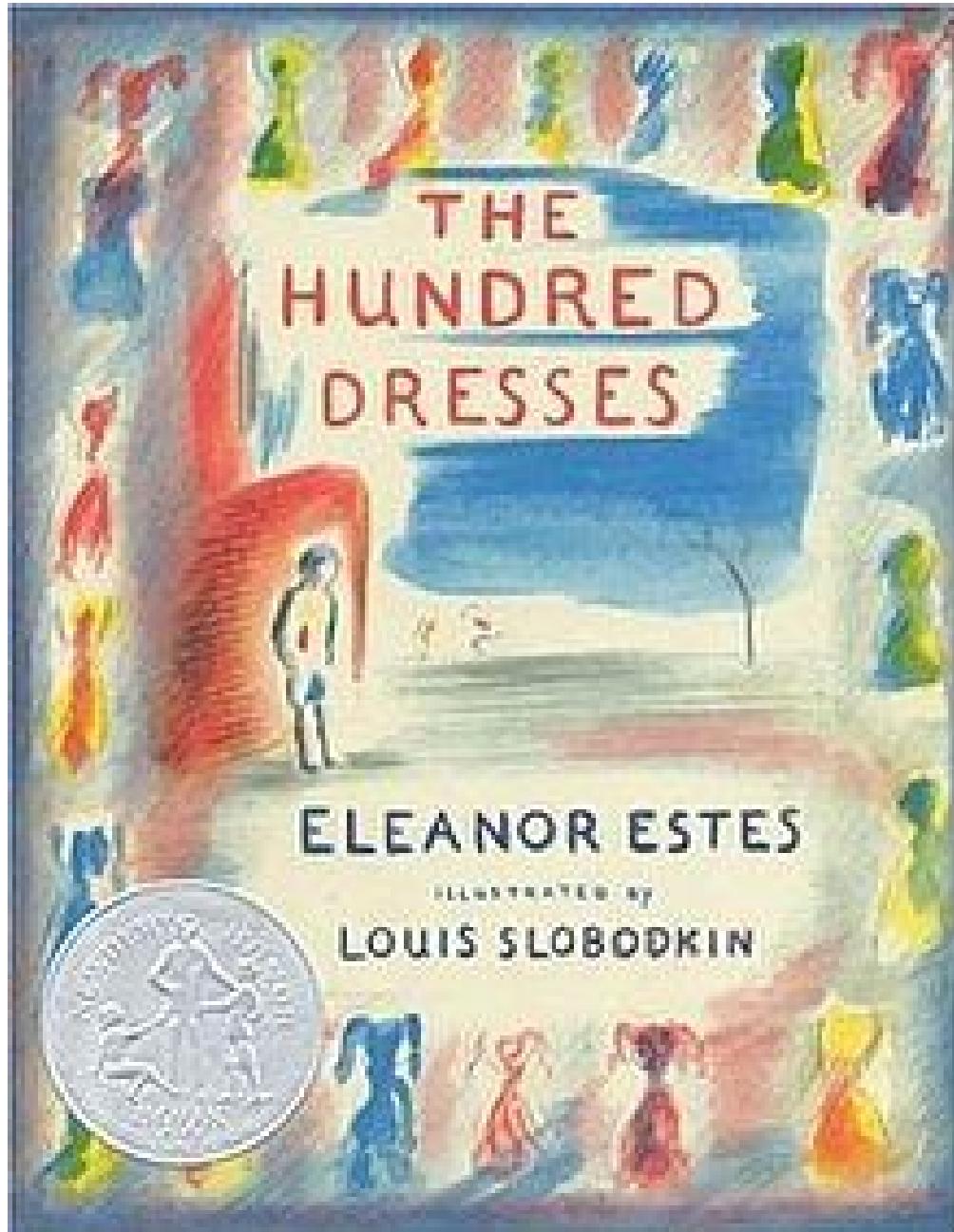


The Hundred Dresses

Summer Reading Discussion Guide



Name _____

The Hundred Dresses

By Eleanor Estes

Chapter 1 (Wanda)

In chapter one, the reader is introduced to the type of girl that Wanda is. On page 3, the author, Eleanor Estes writes...

And nobody ever heard her laugh out loud. Sometimes she twisted her mouth into a crooked smile, but that was all.

Nobody knew exactly why Wanda sat in that seat unless it was because she came all the way from Boggins Heights, and her feet were usually caked with dry mud that she picked up coming down the country roads.

Describe how Wanda looks. You can also draw a picture of her in the box below.

Chapter 2 (The Dresses Game)

- Why do you think that Wanda said that she had one hundred dresses in her closet? Was she lying? Why? Are lying and storytelling the same thing?
- Was the “hundred dresses game” a cruel way to treat Wanda?
- Why was how they were treating Wanda bothering Maddie?

Chapter 3 (A Bright Blue Day)

- Was Wanda different from the other girls – how?
- Wanda may not be the only person who feels bad about the “fun” Peggy is having with Wanda. How does Maddie feel as this game continues?
- Maddie suggests even if you are uncomfortable with the game “there wasn’t anything you could do about it.” Is this true?

Chapter 4 (The Contest)

- Maddie continues to think about the dresses game she decides to write a note to Peggy to ask her to stop teasing Wanda. What do you think of this idea?
- Maddie tears up the note before giving it Peggy. Why does she tear it up? If Peggy was truly a best friend would she tease Maddie about her clothing?

Chapter 5 (The Hundred Dresses)

- The class discovers that Wanda really did have 100 dresses all drawn, coloured and lined up in her closet. How does Maddie feel now?
- Why did Wanda move away?
- Are Peggy and Maddie friends? What is a friend?

Chapter 6 (Up on Boggins Street)

- Peggy says that teasing Wanda about the hundred dresses probably gave her good ideas for her drawings, and maybe she wouldn't have won the drawing contest otherwise. Do you think that this makes sense? Is Peggy making excuses for her own behavior? Why? Do you think she is troubled by what happened?
- Was writing a letter to Wanda the right thing to do? What would have been better: to write a friendly letter to Wanda, as Maddie and Peggy did, or to write a real apology letter? Why?

Chapter 7 (The Letter to Room 13)

Congratulations on finishing “The Hundred Dresses!” Draw a picture of your favorite part of the story. Include a sentence describing your favorite part.

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin black border, intended for a student to draw their favorite part of the story. It occupies the lower half of the page.