**The Hundred Dresses**

By Eleanor Estes

Lit eval. by Mrs. Kyle’s Class

 The Hundred Dresses takes place in the past before cell phones and computers. I know this because there is no mention of the characters having cell phones or computers. There are no busses because the kids are all walking to school. This happened a lot years ago. The story takes place in a small town by the sea. Most of the story is taking place at school. The school is on Oliver Street and Wanda, one of the main characters lives in a poor neighborhood call Boggins Heights up the hill from the school.

 The three main characters in our story are Peggy, Maddie, and Wanda.

Peggy is the most popular girl in the class and Maddie is her best friend. Peggy has curly, auburn hair. Peggy is the bully. She is the one that started all the bullying problems. Peggy likes to be the winner of everything and she doesn’t feel she does anything wrong. She likes to make excuses of why her behavior wasn’t bad to make herself feel better. Peggy’s family is rich because she comes to school with nice clothes on. Her old dresses are handed down to Maddie. Peggy thinks she is good because she helps younger kids and animals, but that doesn’t stop her from being mean to Wanda.

Maddie is best friends with Peggy. Maddie has short blond hair and blue eyes. Maddie is a follower. She doesn’t like what Peggy is doing, but she doesn’t do anything about and goes along with the bullying. Maddie is poor because she wears Peggy’s hand-me-down dresses. She relates with Wanda on being poor because in the story she is afraid that if she stands up for Wanda, they will make fun of her for not having money. I know Maddie is compassionate because she feels bad for Wanda. At the end, Maddie feels very guilty for the way they were all treating Wanda and wanted to tell her she was sorry. Maddie’s decides she will never bully or go along with bullying again, even if it means she will lose her friendship with Peggy.

Wanda is the girl that being bullied. She is very shy and doesn’t talk. She had a hitch in her left shoulder as she walks. Wanda does not stand up for herself against the bullies. Wanda is very poor I know this because she wears the same light blue dress to school every day. Wanda lives in the poor neighborhood called Boggins Heights. Wanda tells the girls she has 100 dresses all lined up in her closet. Wanda never does anything mean anyone. She has dull eyes that do not sparkle, but shows pain in them. The bullies really hurt her feelings. Her last name is Petronski, which is very different from everyone else’s. Wanda and her family end up moving away to get away from the bullying. We find out at the end of the book that Wanda can draw extremely well and she had drawn 100 dresses, so she really did have 100 dresses lined up in her closet. Wanda even won the dress-drawing contest.

 Mr. Svenson is a minor character in The Hundred Dresses. He lives in Boggins Heights next door to Wanda. He was poor and many “bad” rumors were being spread about him. The adults weren’t nice to Mr. Svenson because he was different and they treated him poorly because of that. The adults were role models for the kids. Peggy and Maddie learned how to treat people that were different by the way the adults treated Mr. Svenson. The author wants us to know that you have to be careful how you act because others might be looking to you as a role model.

The unfamiliar word we found while reading The Hundred Dresses is monitor. “While the class was circling the room, the *monitor* from the principal’s office brought Miss Mason a note.” Monitor is a person that helps in the office. We thought about a “Hall Monitor” and that is a person that watches the hall, so an office monitor must be a person that watches the office. The words in the sentence and my prior knowledge helped me know what the word means.

The Hundred Dresses is written in third person. I know this because it uses the characters’ names and doesn’t use I, my, we. It uses the words like they, her, and them. “Today, Monday, Wanda Petronski was not in her seat. But nobody, not even Peggy and Madeline, the girls who stared all the fun, noticed her absence.”