

Dear Rising Seventh Grade Parents and Students,

Summer provides the perfect opportunity for students and families to enjoy great books together! The goal of middle school summer reading is to foster a love of books. Reading over the summer can also help students to maintain or even improve their skills.

This summer, the students will read [100 Dresses](#) by Eleanor Estes.

Students will not just need to read the book, but also understand that their first graded assignment in the fall will be to complete a 'Book Talk'. We will be discussing the book and the 'Book Talk' expectations during the first week back to school.

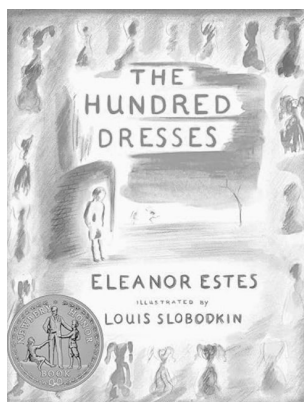
### Assignment

For each of the chapters, there are four questions provided. You must choose at least 2 questions per chapter to respond to in written form.

**Written Response Expectations:** Responses to questions must be written in complete sentences with correct punctuation and capitalization. Make sure to answer ALL parts of each question you select. Additionally, you are expected to support your answers with text evidence.

Remember, these questions are intended to encourage critical thinking and analysis of the novel. Feel free to expand on the answers.

Additionally, there are **5 questions** that will serve as topics for discussion upon your return. Please jot down some notes to help prepare for discussion.



## Chapter 1: Wanda

1. How is it that no one notices Wanda's absence? Do you notice when someone in your class is absent?
2. Why do you suppose Wanda sits in the corner with the muddy boys?
3. What do you think the relationship is like between Peggy, Maddie and Wanda? What does the power structure of that relationship look like?
4. How does the classroom in the story compare to your classroom? What is similar? What is different?

## Chapter 2: The Dresses Game

1. 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?
2. Was the "hundred dresses game" a cruel way to treat Wanda? Explain your thinking.
3. If Wanda, Peggy, and Maddie were in your class, do you think this story would be the same or different? Explain.
4. Think of a different title for this chapter. Support the title with text evidence.

## Chapter 3: A Bright Blue Day

1. Why do you suppose Wanda's desk is the only thing Maddie seems to see? What does this tell us about Maddie?
2. Maddie suggests even if you are uncomfortable with the game "there wasn't anything you could do about it." Is this true? Explain.
3. Why do you suppose Wanda says she has a hundred dresses if she wears the same one to school every day? What was she trying to say?
4. The chapter begins with the description of a bright blue day, but Maddie says that "afterwards it didn't seem like bright blue weather any more, although the weather had not changed in the slightest." What does she mean by this?

## Chapter 4: The Contest

1. Why is it so difficult for Maddie to talk to Peggy about how Wanda is being treated? Have you ever had to stand up to someone when it was hard to do so? Explain.
2. Do you think Wanda can't read or won't read out loud? Explain your reasoning for your answer.
3. 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?
4. 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

1. What did Wanda's father mean when he wrote, "No more holler Polack." Why did the family move away to the city?
2. What were the effects of Maddie's silence? If she stood up to Peggy would anything have been different? Explain.
3. Maddie thinks of herself as a coward. Do you agree? What do you think of Maddie and her actions?
4. Miss Mason just knew the class wouldn't deliberately hurt anyone's feelings. She preferred to think what she said was said in thoughtlessness. What does she mean by this. Do you agree or disagree? Explain.

## Chapter 6: Up on Boggins Street

1. 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?
2. Maddie says she is never going to stand by and do nothing again, even if she loses Peggy's friendship. What do you think of this rule?
3. Why does the author make the weather rainy the day Peggy and Maddie go up to Boggins Heights?
4. Why do you think the author has the narrator tell the story from Maddie's point of view instead of Wanda's point of view?

## Chapter 7: The Letter to Room 13

1. Maddie and Peggy end up writing a friendly letter to Wanda instead of a real apology. Was this the best choice? Why or why not?
2. Peggy thinks everything is fine and Wanda thinks everything's alright between them. Maddie thinks she can't ever make things right. With whom do you agree, Peggy or Maddie? Why?
3. Why do you suppose Wanda wanted Maddie and Peggy to have the drawings, even after they had been mean to her?
4. How did the girls know that Wanda liked them even though they had teased her? Was Wanda proud of her hundred dresses? How do you know? Do you think Wanda really thought the girls were teasing her? Why or why not?

## Questions to Think About

These **5 essential questions** will serve as topics for discussion upon your return. Please jot down some notes so that you can be prepared for discussion..

1. How does the author use the character of Wanda Petronski to address the theme of social acceptance and the consequences of bullying?
2. In what ways do Peggy and Maddie's actions reflect the dynamics of peer pressure and the struggle between conformity and individuality?
3. What role does imagination play in the story, particularly in Wanda's creation of the hundred dresses? How does this reflect her inner strength and resilience?
4. How does the setting of the story, a small town in America during the 1940s, influence the characters' attitudes and behaviors towards differences?
5. What lessons does "The Hundred Dresses" teach readers about empathy, forgiveness, and the importance of speaking up against injustice?