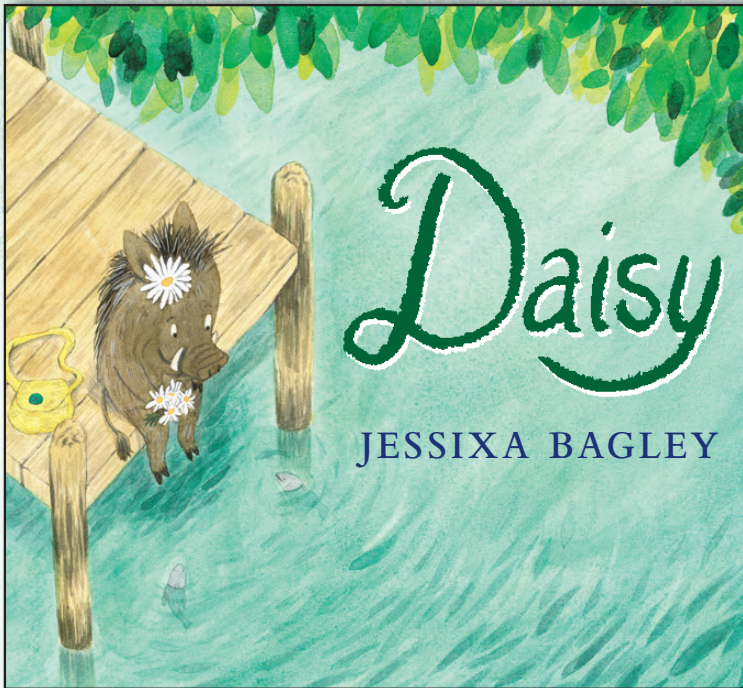


# HOLIDAY HOUSE EDUCATOR'S GUIDE



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NEAL PORTER BOOKS

## *Daisy*

by Jessixa Bagley

### THEMES

- Fitting In
- Self-Acceptance
- Bullying
- Emotions
- Conflict Resolution

### ABOUT THE BOOK

When Daisy the warthog's classmates tease her, she finds comfort collecting lost and forgotten things. She knows they're special—and soon she meets a friend who knows it too.

"Daisies seem so simple on the surface, but when you look closely you see their hidden beauty." This is what Daisy the warthog's mom always says, and it's the reason she got her name. But when Daisy goes to school, she doesn't feel like her name. The other kids, Rose, Violet, and Petunia, make fun of her and call her Thistle.

Daisy spends a lot of time with her head down, but she doesn't need her classmates to have fun. When she looks at the forest floor, she starts to find all sorts of treasures, beautiful things that were once special and have since been forgotten. The other kids might make fun of her pastime, but it turns out she's not the only one who appreciates the hidden beauty of forgotten things when she meets a like-minded new friend.

### CLASSROOM DISCUSSION

- Take a close look at the front and the back cover of the book. There are four warthogs on the dock. Which one is Daisy? Then study the dedication page. What is Daisy doing? Why isn't she playing with the other children?
- On the first double-page spread, the other children are leaving Daisy alone in the field of daisies. Discuss whether the students are ignoring Daisy, or whether she is too shy to join in the fun. Most books have a conflict or a problem that must be solved. What do these illustrations reveal about the conflict?





- Daisy was named for her mother's favorite flower. Describe the flower in Daisy's hair. Her mother tells her that daisies are "plain, but if you look closer you see their beauty." Discuss the beauty of the daisy.
- Daisy doesn't "feel like her name" at school. How should her name make her feel? Violet tells Daisy that she looks like a thistle. What is a thistle? How is Violet's comment mean? Discuss ways to deal with mean classmates like Violet.
- Make note of the names of the other students at school. How many are named for flowers? How do they behave like thistles?
- Daisy puts her head down and makes her own fun. What does Daisy do for fun? Explain why she compares herself to "things that seemed overlooked." Why does she keep these treasures and her fort a secret? Discuss how Daisy feels when she is alone in her secret fort.
- Look at the double-page spread that shows Daisy's many treasures. Name the items. Each item tells a story. Pick one item and tell its story.
- Daisy discovers some special treasures outside the entrance to her fort. How is this a mystery to her? When does Daisy learn the answer to her mystery?
- Describe Fern. How does she become Daisy's friend? Discuss how Daisy feels once she has a friend. Make a prediction about Daisy's first day in the classroom after she and Fern become friends.



Guide created by Pat Scales, retired school librarian and independent consultant, Greenville, South Carolina.



## ABOUT THE CREATOR

**Jessixa Bagley**, author/illustrator of *Daisy*, has written and illustrated multiple award-winning picture books, including *Before I Leave* and *Boats for Papa*, winner of an SCBWI Golden Kite Award for best picture book text. Her book *Laundry Day* was not only a Junior Library Guild Selection but also a recipient of an Ezra Jack Keats Honor for writing. Her book *Henry and Bea* received a starred review from *Publishers Weekly*. She lives in Seattle, Washington.

