

The Spelling Bee

A Reading A-Z Level L Leveled Book

Word Count: 539

LEVELED BOOK • L

Connections

Writing

Pretend that you are Jasmine. Write an apology letter to Finn. Include why you are sorry and what you will do to try not to hurt other people's feelings in the future.

Spelling and Vocabulary

Have a class spelling bee using the words in the book's glossary.

The Spelling Bee

**Multi
level
1.L.O**

Written by Jill Sherman
Illustrated by Laura Zarrin

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Focus Question

What is the lesson of this story?

Words to Know

apology
compete
fail

glaring
smirked
spelling bee

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Correlation

LEVEL L

Fountas & Pinnell	K
Reading Recovery	18
DRA	20



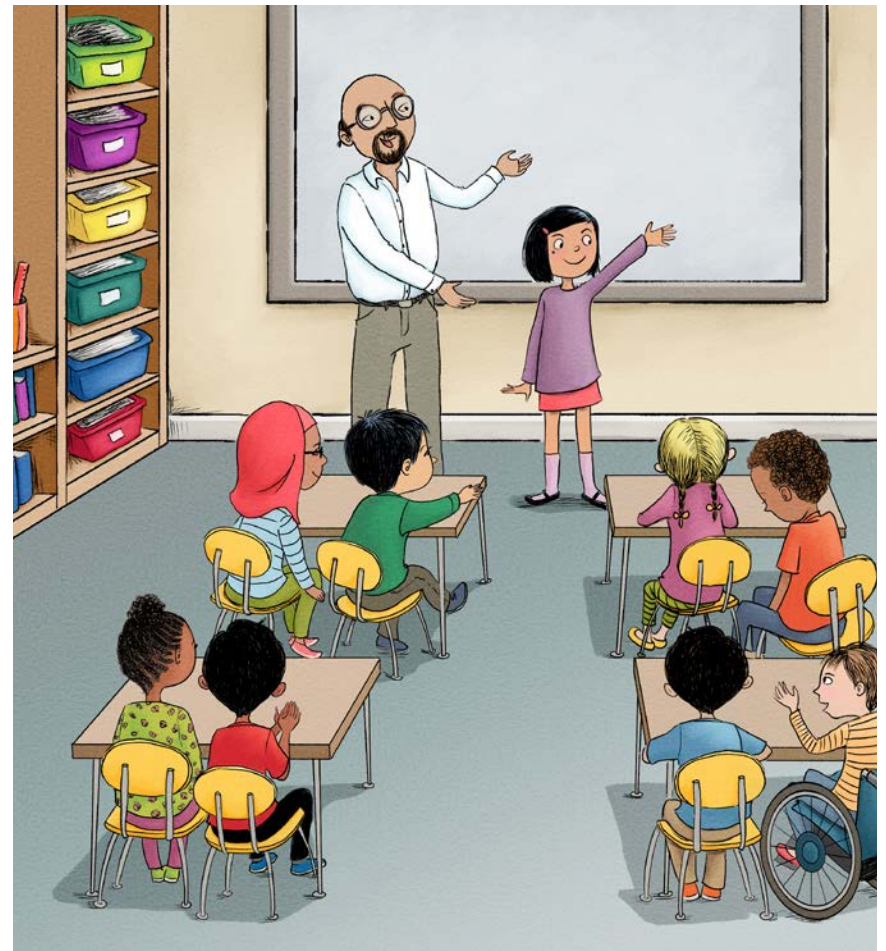
Jasmine smiled. She was sure she was going to win the class **spelling bee**.

“Good luck,” Finn, the other speller, said.

She **smirked** at him.

Mr. Russo said, “Finn, your next word is **apology**.”

“Apology. A-P-O-L-A-G-Y. Apology,” he said slowly.



Mr. Russo said, “I’m afraid that’s wrong.”

He asked Jasmine to spell the same word. She smiled and spelled it correctly. Then, she spelled another word correctly.

Mr. Russo cheered. "Class, let's give our new spelling champ a round of applause!"

"Jasmine, are you ready to represent our class tomorrow in the school-wide bee?" Mr. Russo asked.

"Yes," she replied.



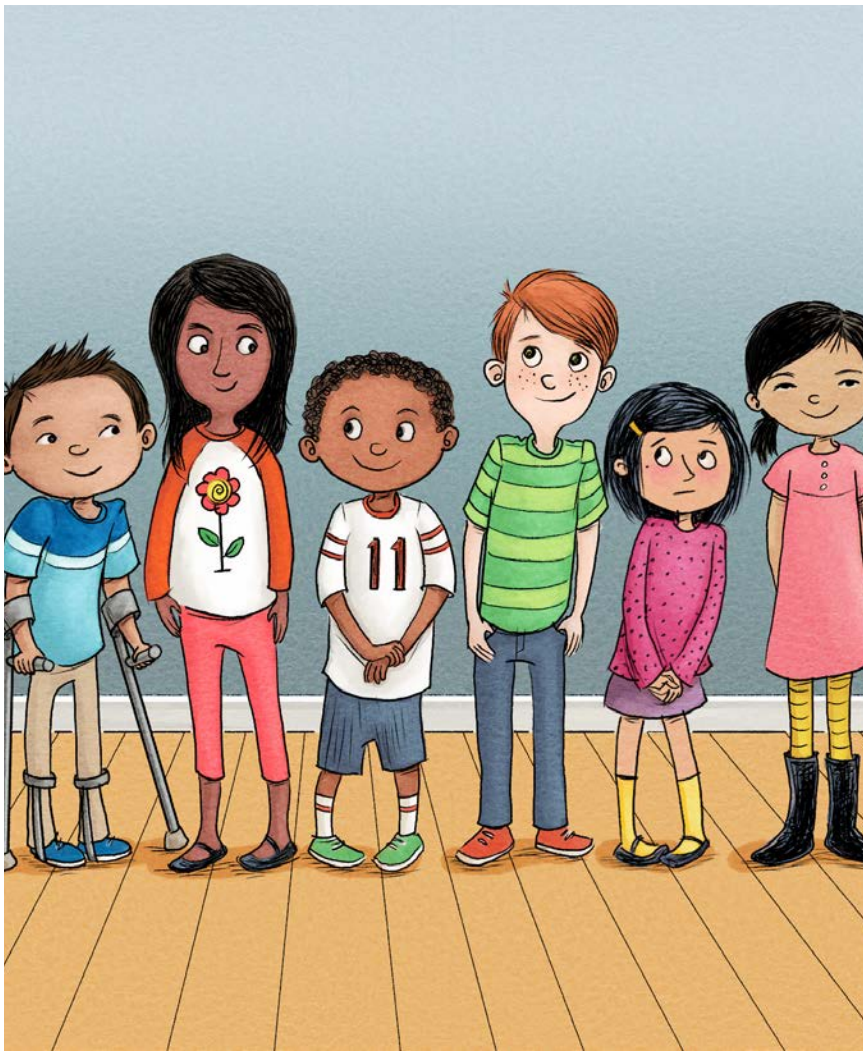
During lunch, everyone was talking about the spelling bee. Jasmine walked by the table where Finn sat.

"I can't believe you're going onstage in front of the entire school," Lilly said.

"How hard is it to spell a few words?" Jasmine asked.

"Not *that* easy. You beat all of us," Finn said.

"Well, you all only had to spell baby words," she replied.



The next day, Jasmine looked at the spelling bee winners from the other classes. She hadn't thought about how she'd have to **compete** against older students.



Jasmine saw Josh, a fourth grader she knew from her block.

"I think I might win this year," Josh told her.

"Me too!" Jasmine said.

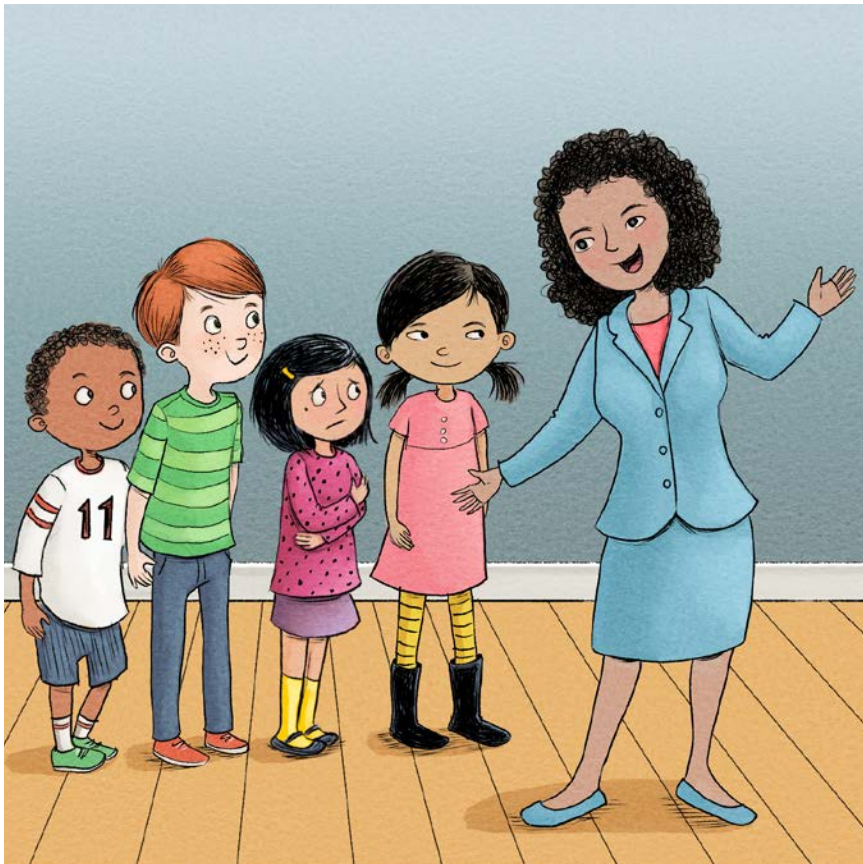
Josh laughed and said, "Second graders never win."

"Well, I'm pretty good," Jasmine bragged. "I won my class bee on the word *apology*."

Josh asked, "That's kind of a baby word, isn't it?"

Jasmine blushed.

Principal Lopez started to explain the rules for the spelling bee, but Jasmine wasn't listening. What kinds of words would she have to spell? *I probably should have studied the word list Mr. Russo gave the class,* she thought.



Jasmine sat onstage with the other spelling champs. Her hands were sweating.



As Principal Lopez introduced each of the spellers, their classes cheered. When she said Jasmine's name, most students in Mr. Russo's class clapped. Jasmine saw Finn **glaring** at her.



The first students spelled their words correctly. Jasmine knew some of them, but not all of them. Finally, it was her turn.

“Your word is *caterpillar*,” said Principal Lopez.

Jasmine’s heart sank. She had never spelled this word before. She tried to sound it out.

“Caterpillar. C-A-T,” Jasmine paused. “E-R-P,” she continued, but she wasn’t sure what came next. “I-L-E-R,” she finished.



“I’m sorry, but that’s wrong,” Principal Lopez said.

Jasmine returned to her chair.

That was it. She was out on her first word. Yesterday she was sure she could win.



Jasmine looked out and spotted Finn. *Now I know how he felt,* she thought.

Later, Jasmine opened the classroom door quietly, hoping to slip in.



“Way to go, Jasmine!” Lilly said.

“Yeah, bad luck on that word,” Finn added.

“You’re not mad at me?” Jasmine asked. “I said such mean things yesterday. I’m really sorry.”



“It’s all right,” Finn replied. “Besides, it was really brave to go against those fifth graders,” he said.

“Thanks, Finn. Now I understand how you felt yesterday. It is okay to **fail**, but it’s not okay to be mean about it,” Jasmine said. “You never know how others feel until you’re in their shoes,” she added.

Finn looked at his shoes and laughed.

Glossary

- apology** (*n.*) an expression of regret for a mistake or an action that hurts someone (p. 3)
- compete** (*v.*) to do something for the purpose of winning (p. 7)
- fail** (*v.*) to not succeed (p. 15)
- glaring** (*v.*) staring in an angry way (p. 10)
- smirked** (*v.*) smiled in a mean way (p. 3)
- spelling bee** (*n.*) a competition in which people spell words (p. 3)