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# Happy Birthday, Winnie!

Lesson Plan for *Happy Birthday, Winnie* by Valerie Thomas and Korky Paul  
(2007/2008, Oxford: Oxford University Press)

Recommended Grade Levels: 5 and 6

## Reading & Responding

**Lead-in** with picture prompts (a wand and a layered cake): Teacher puts picture prompts on poster paper and has pupils write down their word associations on the poster.

**Predicting:** *We are going to read a story together. What do you think it's going to be about?* Teacher does this activity orally.

**1<sup>st</sup> Reading:** Pupils get text version only and teacher reads it, varying his/her voice, and pupils read along. Teacher reads the entire text and then asks the question *It is Winnie's birthday. What do you think her dress looked like?* Write pupils' suggestions on the board.

Then:

- Teacher provides picture and word cards to help describe Winnie's dress (possible words: *lace, knee length, long-sleeved, ribbons, stripes, polka dots, a short/long dress, a dress with lace, a zipper, buttons*)
- Afterwards have them talk about what kind of animal Wilbur is and what he might look like. Revise animal vocabulary and body parts beforehand if necessary (possible words: *stripes, whiskers, claws, paws, tail, fur*).

**2<sup>nd</sup> Reading:** Pupils read the text again on their own and perform the tasks once they've reached different icons. Each of them represents a task which they should complete.



On Tuesday, she made herself a party dress, and a matching bow for Wilbur. 'Purr,' said Wilbur. I look lovely, he thought.



And there was the biggest birthday cake in the whole world, with candles on top.



(This icon was used at the end of the story. Then the pupils knew to go and get the original book and do the next activities.)

Figure 1: Excerpts from Thomas & Paul (2007/2008, n.p.) enriched with symbols for activities (first published in da Rocha et al. 2017, p 87)

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**Activity 1:** *Describing and Predicting* worksheet is provided on a desk in the classroom. Pupils design a dress and use the new vocabulary as well as describe Wilbur.

Hint: Pupils keep their worksheets because they will need to compare their versions with the book's later on.

**Activity 2:** *Cake Station* – Teacher sits at a desk with the materials and explains what needs to be done. Pupils design and then describe in writing their own layer for Winnie's birthday cake.

- Materials needed: a roll of paper, white dividers, colored pencils, large address labels, glue or double-sided tape, either paper cake plate (cut in half) or a picture of a cake stand, paper candles/picture of birthday candles

Hint: Divide the class up into two groups so that you have an even distribution of cake layers (see picture on the right).

**Activity 3:** *Scavenger Hunt* – Pupils read the picturebook on their own for the first time. While reading, they take a closer look at the pictures in order to complete the following task more efficiently. When they have finished reading the book, they go to the teacher to receive the last worksheet *Scavenger Hunt* (see MP2). Students leaf through the book again and answer the questions.

Hint: Put a sticky note on each book with these instructions: *Read the book, study the pictures and then go to your teacher.* Also provide the answer key to this activity. This can be placed in multiple areas in the classroom or hallway. Thus, pupils check their answers individually.

**Activity 4:** *Comparing and Contrasting Discussion* – When everyone is finished with the *Scavenger Hunt* task, teacher and pupils compare the drawings and descriptions that are in the book with their own. Then they take a closer look at their versions of the layered cake and analyze what they have created. Afterwards these cakes are compared with the book's.

Hint: Teacher may guide the discussion by using a few prompt questions such as *What is different between your cakes and Winnie's? Which ingredients were used in the book? Which ingredients did you use? Can you categorize the layers? Which layers can you eat? Which layer do you like best and why?*

**Feedback Activity:** Teacher hands out a sticky note to each pupil and has them write down three new words that they remember from this lesson (at this point, picture and word cards aren't displayed anymore in the classroom).

**Option:** Written feedback sheet for evaluating favorite and challenging activities can be handed out. Here are a few extra ideas:

- Create your own birthday party invitation.
- Draw and label the food on the buffet table at your birthday party.

**Materials Needed:**

1. Multiple copies of the book: one per each pair
2. 2 lead-in pictures: a layered cake and a magic wand
3. Poster paper
4. Hand-typed text version of the book (one per pupil)



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5. Worksheets (one per pupil)
  6. Word & picture cards (for describing Winnie's dress and animal body parts)
  7. Cake Station materials: a roll of paper, white dividers, colored pencils, large address labels, glue or double-sided tape, either paper cake plate (cut in half) or a picture of a cake stand, paper candles/picture of birthday candles
  8. Solution sheet for *Scavenger Hunt* worksheet (self-check)
  9. Extra sheets of paper for the birthday invitation and/or buffet if time allows

**Materials Provided:**

*Describing and Predicting* worksheet

*Scavenger Hunt* worksheet

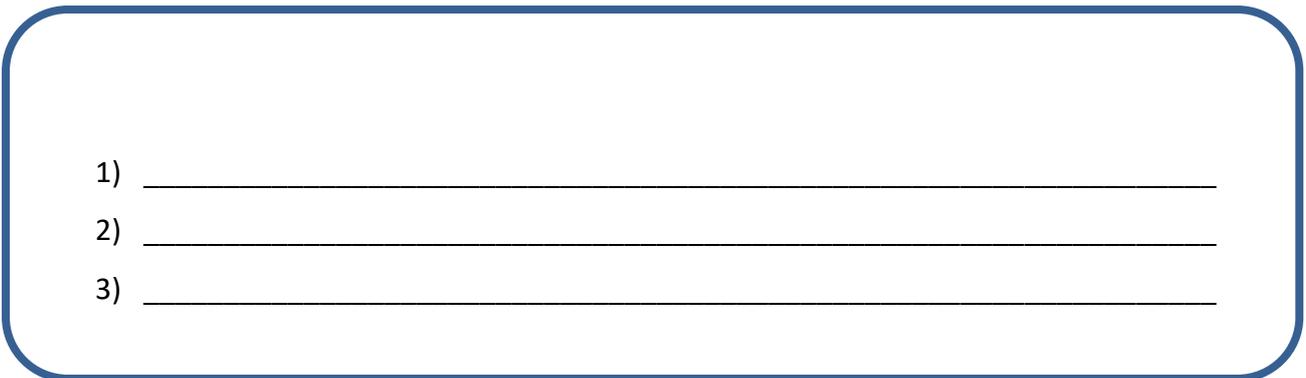
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**Winnie: Describing and Predicting**

I) What do you think Winnie looks like? Draw Winnie in her party dress and label what's on her dress.



II) Who is Wilbur? What does Wilbur look like? Write 3 sentences.



1) \_\_\_\_\_

2) \_\_\_\_\_

3) \_\_\_\_\_

Language:

In the book, Winnie's dress is..... // In the book, Winnie's dress has got .....

In my drawing, she is wearing a dress with ....

The book shows her wearing a dress with ...

My Wilbur has got ... // My Wilbur is ....

In the book, Wilbur has got ...

Possible vocabulary for predicting

*Winnie's dress:* lace, bows, polka dots, stripes, short sleeves, long sleeves, a ribbon, ribbons, buttons, a zipper, is a long dress, is a short dress, is knee-length, is a fitted dress

*Wilbur:* tail, claws, fur, sharp teeth, tiger-striped, whiskers, ginger, paws

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## Scavenger Hunt

Read the book and take a closer look at the pictures. Then do this reading task.

- 1) When is Winnie's birthday? \_\_\_\_\_
  - 2) When is your birthday? \_\_\_\_\_
  - 3) Who did Winnie invite? \_\_\_\_\_
  - 4) Who would you like to invite to your party? \_\_\_\_\_
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5) What was Winnie's timetable for the week? What did she do? Write down activities.

E.g. *wrote invitation ....*

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday

6) Tell us the names of Winnie's favorite spell books.

\_\_\_\_\_

7) What time did her guests arrive? \_\_\_\_\_

On the same page, count how many presents have got a green ribbon and how many have a blue one.  
green = \_\_\_\_\_ blue = \_\_\_\_\_

What is the pirate holding in his hands? \_\_\_\_\_

8) Who fell into the fountain? \_\_\_\_\_

9) Take a look at Winnie's birthday buffet. What did they eat?

\_\_\_\_\_

What food would you make for a party?

\_\_\_\_\_