

Maddie's First Day

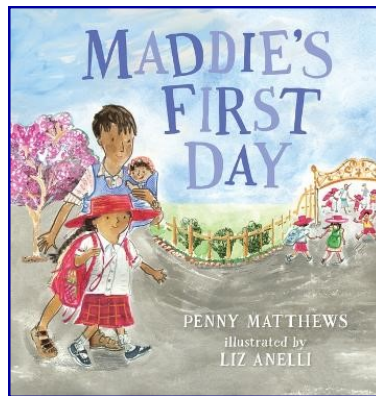
By Penny Matthews & Illustrated by Liz Anelli

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It is Maddie's first day of school and she has everything ready – her uniform, shoes, socks and hat. But there is one special thing that Maddie can't leave behind – her blanky! Award winners Penny Matthews and Liz Anelli team up to bring us this wonderful picture book about the excitement of going to "big" school for the first time.



Teacher Notes have been based on those supplied by the publisher. A full version is available on our website.

Themes:

- School
- Separation
- New Experiences

Discussion Questions:

- Maddie describes her school uniform. Do you have to wear a school uniform? What is your favorite bit of your uniform?
- Maddie sneaks Blanky into her backpack. Do you have a favourite toy that you like to sleep with? What do you call it? What is special about your toy?
- Maddie's dad makes her a special lunch. If you could choose your favourite lunch to have in your lunch box what would you choose?
- After Maddie's mum does her hair Maddie's dad says she looks very grown up. What do you think makes you look grown up?
- What emotions does Maddie feel throughout the story? How can you tell? Act out different emotions using facial expressions and body language.
- When Maddie approaches the school she gets "wobbly in her tummy". What do you think that means? Do you ever get wobbly in your tummy? What makes it better?
- How does Maddie feel when Maya asks why she brought her blanky to school? How can you tell? Why do you think she feels this way? How does Maddie feel when she finds out Charlie brought his blanky to school as well?
- Trying new things and having new experiences can be scary. What are some tips you can give others to help them not feel scared when doing something new and unfamiliar?
- Maddie's classroom has books, computers, tables and little chairs and a big whiteboard. Does your classroom look the same as Maddie's? How is it similar and different? If you could make your classroom look like anything what would you make it look like?
- Some of the activities that Maddie does at school are singing, drawing, counting with blocks and reading stories. What are your favourite things to do at school?
- There are two banners in Maddie's classroom that read "MARHABA" and "BENVENUTO" (note: they translate to 'welcome' in Arabic and Italian respectively). Does anyone in your class know the word for 'welcome' in another language?
- On the whiteboard or on a large sheet of paper, place an image of the Maddie's First Day cover and surround it with words that describe the book. Include words that describe what you liked and what you disliked about the book.