

Lesson Plan



Apple Bloom, Scootaloo, and Sweetie Belle wrote newspaper stories about their friends. Were their friends happy?

CEFR Level A1+  
 YLE Movers  
 Text type: modern story  
 Word count: 571  
 Lexile measure: 550L

## Lesson objectives

### Vocabulary focus

Adjectives: *angry, exciting, funny, favorite, happy, new, right, surprised, terrible*

Verbs in the past simple tense: *began, called, came, felt, gave, got, laughed, read, said, saw, stopped, talked, told, wrote*

General: *bodies, bubble gum, diary, friend, fun, hug, idea, job, lives, newspaper, note, pony mark, problem, school, sorry, stories, summer holidays*

### Grammar focus

Past simple questions and answers

### Reading skills

Understanding characters' feelings

### Cross-curricular connections

Art (design and illustrate a newspaper article)

Music (song)

Social Studies (understanding other people's feelings)

### Resources

Reader

Activity Book

Audio

Flashcard download 1–14

### Timing: 40–60 minutes

This is to be used as a general guide and will depend on group size, the pace of learning, and the children's language ability.

We would suggest 10 minutes for **Before reading**, 20 minutes for **During reading**, and 10 minutes for **After reading**. Additional time can be used for further activities.

## Lesson plan

### Before reading

Show the children the cover of the Reader.

Ask the children: *What are they doing?*

*What are they reading?* Establish that it is a school newspaper.

Ask the children to look at the **Picture words** spread in the Reader and introduce them to the characters. This will help avoid confusion about who is who when reading the story.

Play Guess Who with the relevant Flashcards. Select a Flashcard of a character and hold it so that only you can see the picture. Tell the children that they can ask questions about the character, but that you can only answer *Yes* or *No*. Give some examples to help: *Is she orange?* *Does she have pink hair?* The child who guesses correctly then chooses the next Flashcard.



### During reading

Read out or play the Audio recording of the story. Ask the children to follow in their Reader. After every couple of pages, stop and ask questions about the characters, using the past simple tense. For example, after Reader pages 22–23, ask:

*What did all the ponies do when they read the story about Snips and Snails? How did Snips and Snails feel? Why? How did Diamond Tiara feel? Why?*

Encourage the children to give complete answers.



Continue to read or play the story. After Reader pages 36–37, ask:

*Who are these newspaper stories about? Are they nice stories? How did Applejack, Pinkie Pie, and Fluttershy feel when they read them?*

Check the children’s understanding of the story. Establish why it might be hurtful to read an article about yourself.

Read out or play the story again. Ask children to make the expressions of the characters in the story illustrations (*unhappy, angry, happy, surprised, sorry*) as they read along. This will help the children’s comprehension as well as making the emotions in the story more meaningful.

### After reading

Ask children questions in the past tense to encourage them to think about the issues raised by the story. For example, ask: *Why did the ponies write about their friends’ problems? How did the ponies feel when they read stories about themselves?*

Encourage the children to reflect on the relation to their own experiences. Ask: *Would you like to read a story about yourself?* Establish that it is usually okay to write about other people in a positive way, but that it is not nice to hurt other people’s feelings.

The children can do the following activities to focus on characters’ feelings and the simple past tense:

- Reader activities: 5, 7, 8, 11, 13, 16, 17
- Activity Book activities: 1, 5, 6, 8, 11, 12, 14

To reinforce what happens in the story, play the Audio of the song on Activity Book page 16 a couple of times and encourage the children to join in.

## Differentiation

### Extra support

Before doing the **During Reading** activity where children make the expressions of the characters, have children draw the expressions and write the adjective beneath. This will make it easier for children to follow the story and know what expressions to make.

### Extension

Fast-finishers can make their own edition of *The Pony School News*. They should think of a nice story about their friend or their class. The newspaper should include a headline and it should be illustrated with a picture.