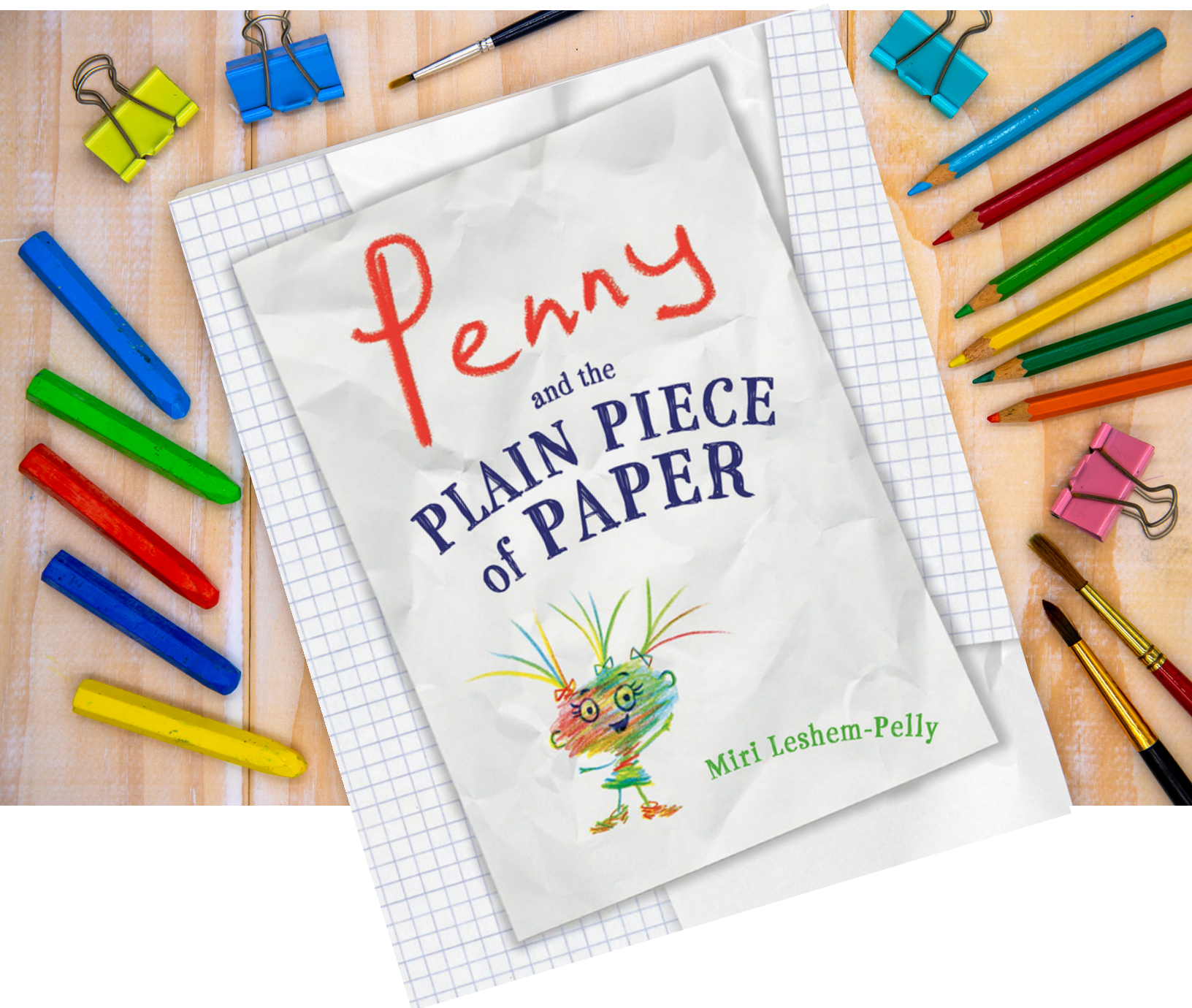


Teaching Guide

FOR GRADES K-3



Penny and the Plain Piece of Paper by Miri Leshem-Pelly
Published by Philomel/Penguin Random House



To Teachers and Parents

Thank you for downloading this teaching guide. This guide is meant to work with the picture book *Penny and the Plain Piece of Paper* published by Philomel/Penguin Random House.

Penny and the Plain Piece of Paper tells the story of a doodled girl who's bored on her plain piece of paper and goes out to explore other types of paper. A funny book about fitting in and finding home, taking control over your own destiny, and using creativity to change your life.

This teaching guide will help turn this book into an enjoyable and educational tool.

Recommended for K-3 students.



Get in touch with Miri Leshem-Pelly



I'd love to meet your students on a virtual author visit!
Email me for more information.

Email: miri@mirileshem.com

Web: www.mirileshembooks.com

FB: facebook.com/mirileshem

FB Book Page: @PennyandthePlainPieceofPaper

Discussion Topics

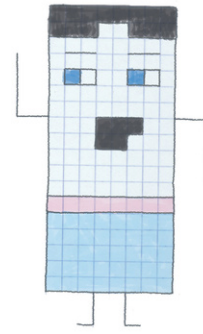


1. Why do you think Penny wanted to leave her plain piece of paper at the beginning of the story?

2. Do you ever feel bored? What do you do then?

3. In the newspaper, Penny stood upside down, and Mr. Important told her, "You can't pose like that in a newspaper." How did Penny feel when she heard this, in your opinion?

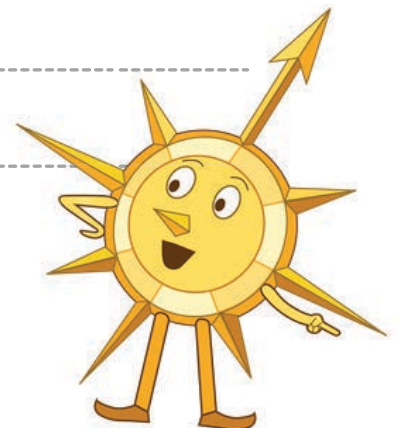
Discussion Topics



4. In the map, why wasn't Penny allowed to swim in the lake?

5. In the graph paper, how do you think Penny felt when she was squeezed into a triangle?

6. In the wrapping paper, why did the boy and girl offer Penny hats and presents again and again?



Discussion Topics



7. In a coloring book, what is the reason that all the drawings must have no color?

8. How did Penny feel after the bears removed her color?

9. When Penny returned to the plain piece of paper, she changed her mind and didn't want to leave it again. Why did she want to stay in it? What was her idea?



Vocabulary

Here are some words from *Penny and the Plain Piece of Paper*. What do you think they mean?



Plain

A
Simple

or

B
Blank

Pose

A
A way of standing
to be photographed

or

B
Standing on
your hands

Still

A
Smile

or

B
Not moving

Compass

A
An instrument used for
looking at the stars

or

B
An instrument that shows
which direction is north

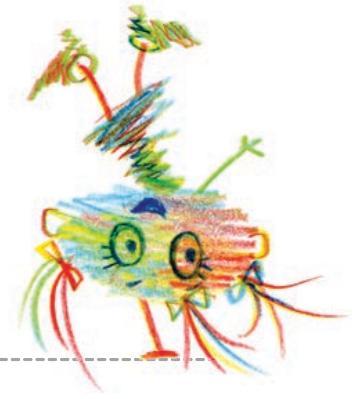
Map Legend

A
A list of the symbols
that appear on the map

or

B
The border of a
country on the map

More Vocabulary



Here are more words from *Penny and the Plain Piece of Paper*. What do you think they mean?

Geometric Shape

A

An unclear shape
without any form

or

B

A closed shape
with straight lines

Distributor

A

A person who
gives something

or

B

A person who
makes something

Dizzy

A

Confused, unsteady

or

B

Peaceful

Outline

A

A line that can't
be seen

or

B

A line that goes
around a shape

A Closer Look at the Ending

On the last page of the book, Penny and her friends are having fun, doing things that Penny wanted to do when she entered the other papers.

1. When Penny entered the **newspaper** she wanted to **pose for a picture**.

In the last picture, who is doing something similar?

2. When Penny entered the **map** she wanted to **swim in the lake**.

In the last picture, who is doing something similar?

3. When Penny entered the **graph paper** she wanted to **play hopscotch**.

In the last picture, who is doing something similar?

4. When Penny entered the **coloring book** she wanted to **fly in a balloon**.

In the last picture, who is doing something similar?



Which Paper Is It?

On the last page of the book, the objects are made of different pieces of paper. Draw a line connecting each object with the paper it is made of.



Treetop

Graph Paper

Tree trunk

Hammock

Coloring Book

Clouds

Lake

Map

Ground

Newspaper

Flying balloon

Sidewalk tiles with
hopscotch markings

Wrapping Paper

Cut and Glue!

Let's Create a Paper Collage.

The last page of *Penny and the Plain Piece of Paper* is a picture made of different papers. Such a picture is called a collage. Let's cut and glue some papers to design a collage.

- 1 Use a plain piece of paper as your background.
- 2 Choose a landscape scene you'd like to create, such as: mountains, forest, city, village, lake.
- 3 Use a pencil to draw different elements for the landscape you chose on the various papers. Draw simple shapes. For example:
Mountain: Half a circle. Tree: Circle for the treetop + rectangle for the tree trunk.
Building: Rectangle. Lake: Oval.
- 4 Use scissors to cut out the shapes.
- 5 Arrange the shapes on top of the background paper. Move them around until you're happy with the design.
- 6 Glue the elements onto the background.
- 7 To finish up, add details with a black marker.



Materials needed:

Some pieces of paper from 3-5 different types, such as:

- Plain, blank paper (for the background)
- Newspaper
- Coloring Book
- Graph/Line Paper
- Wrapping Paper
- Paper Bag
- Or any other paper you have.

You'll also need:

pencil, eraser, scissors, glue, black marker

Write a Story

Take Penny on a new adventure!

Here are three pieces of paper that Penny would love to visit.



1 Calendar Page



2 Handmade Paper with Flowers



3 Envelope

Choose one of the papers and write a little story on the next page, describing what happened when Penny entered this piece of paper.

Write a Story



After choosing your favorite paper (Calendar Page / Envelope / Handmade Paper) write a little story describing what happened when Penny entered this piece of paper.

Here are some questions that could help you write the story:

Who did Penny meet?

What did she see?

What did she want to do?

What happened in the end? Did Penny like this paper and decide to stay, or did she leave it?





Well done young writer

Who's the Identical Couple?

When Penny entered the wrapping paper, she met a couple of happy children. In the wrapping paper below, there are 9 couples, but only one of them is identical to the couple that Penny met.

Can you spot them? Look closely!

The number of the identical couple is: _____



Flying Paper Airplanes

In the story, Penny uses paper airplanes to send invitations to her friends.

Let's create our own paper airplanes and fly some messages to our friends too!

1. On a plain piece of paper, write a nice message.

For example:

"Have a great day!"

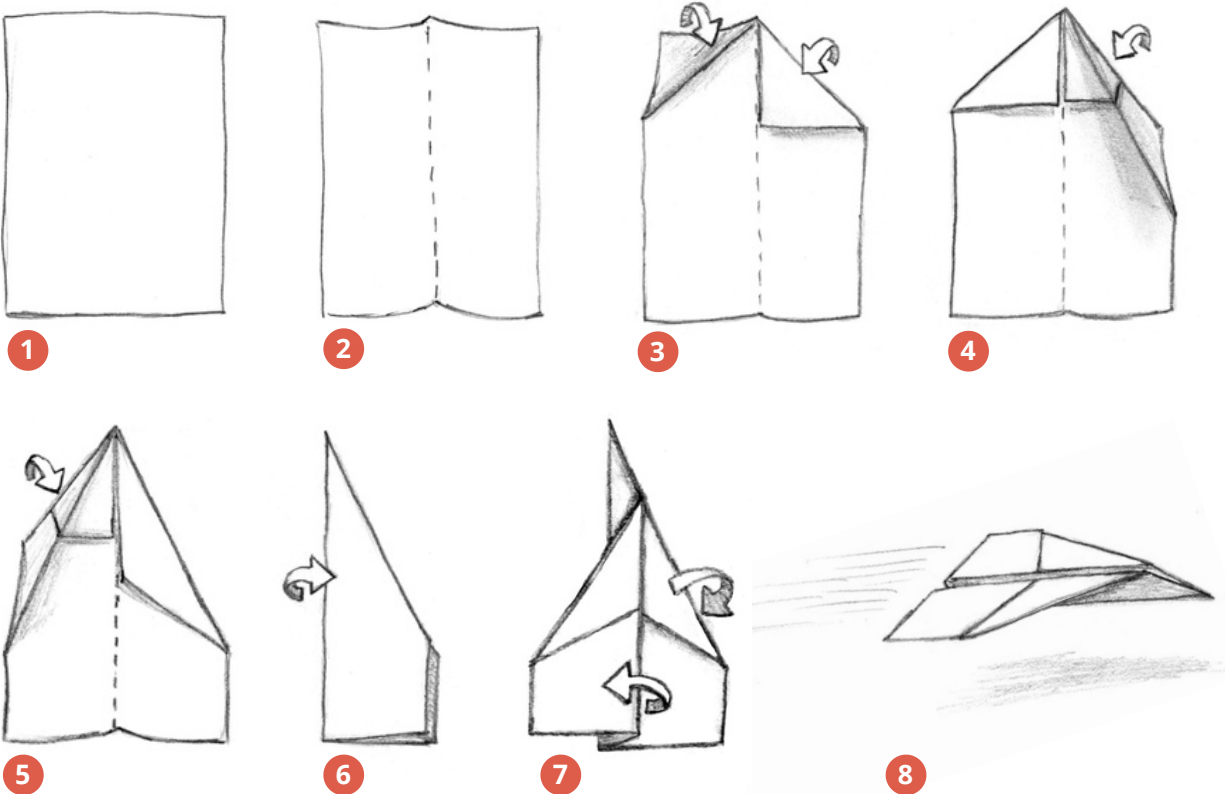
"Thank you for being a good friend!"

"You're invited for a paper plane competition!"

Or any other nice and fun message that you can think of.



2. Fold the paper following the steps in the drawings.



3. When your paper airplane is ready, launch it in the direction of your friend!