

WHO comes to take care of Little Critter and Little Sister when Mom and Dad go out? The babysitter.

WHAT game do Little Critter and the babysitter play? Checkers.

WHERE does the babysitter fall asleep? On the couch.

WHEN do Mom and Dad come home? When it is very late at night.

WHY do Mom and Dad leave Little Critter and Little Sister with a babysitter? They want to go somewhere that won't be very fun for their children.

Just Me and My Babysitter – Monday

First Read-aloud

1) Before reading - introduce characters and the problem.

(a) Characters –

- (i) Mom and Dad – Little Critter's parents, who go out and leave him and Little Sister with a babysitter
- (ii) Little Critter
- (iii) Little Sister
- (iv) Babysitter - a person who takes care of children when their parents are not with them

(b) Problem –

- (i) When the babysitter comes, Little Critter and Little Sister try to help, but they end up making a big mess of the house and staying up too late at night

2) While reading - expand vocabulary: introduce 8-10 words to highlight and define (show pictures & act out).

- (i) Babysitter – a person who takes care of children when their parents are not with them
- (ii) Go out – to leave the house (e.g. to go a friend's house, dinner, a movie)
- (iii) Help – to make things easier or better
- (iv) Little sister – the younger sister, the baby
- (v) Pajamas – clothes that you wear to sleep in
- (vi) Checkers – a game played by two people; each person has twelve red or black colored pieces to move around a board and you try to get from one side of the board to the other to win
- (vii) Bedtime – the time when we go to sleep

3) Comment on main character's thoughts and feelings.

- (a) *How do you think Mom and Dad feel when they leave their children with the babysitter?* They will miss Little Critter and Little Sister while they are gone, but they are probably excited to go out
- (b) *Is Little Critter helpful when the babysitter comes?* Little Critter tries to help, but ends up making messes and staying up past his bedtime
- (c) *How do you think the babysitter feels when Little Critter and Little Sister have a pillow fight? How does she feel when Little Critter makes a mess in the kitchen? When he stays up too late?* She is probably not too happy about any of it.
- (d) *Does Little Critter have fun when the babysitter comes?* He does – he does all of the things he can't do when his parents are there.
- (e) *Do you think Little Critter should try to be more helpful next time the babysitter comes?*

4) After reading - invite explanations, wonder aloud, and ask follow-up questions.

- (a) *Have you ever had a babysitter? Who was it?*
- (b) *Why do you think Mom and Dad left Little Critter and Little Sister with the babysitter?*
- (c) *What do you (or would you) like to do with a babysitter? Read books, play games, help in the kitchen, watch movies?*
- (d) *Why is the babysitter asleep when Mom and Dad come home?* She is so tired because Little Critter and Little Sister have stayed up so late.
- (e) *Do you think you could be a babysitter?*

Just Me and My Babysitter – Tuesday and Wednesday

Second and Third Read-alouds

1) Before reading - introduce characters and the problem.

- (a) Characters –
 - (i) Mom and Dad – Little Critter’s parents, who go out and leave him and Little Sister with a babysitter
 - (ii) Little Critter
 - (iii) Little Sister
 - (iv) Babysitter - a person who takes care of children when their parents are not with them
- (b) Problem –
 - (i) When the babysitter comes, Little Critter and Little Sister try to help, but they end up making a big mess of the house and staying up too late at night

2) While reading - expand vocabulary: introduce 8-10 words to highlight and define (show pictures & act out).

- (i) Babysitter – a person who takes care of children when their parents are not with them
- (ii) Go out – to leave the house (e.g. to go a friends house, dinner, a movie)
- (iii) Help – to make things easier or better
- (iv) Little sister – the younger sister, the baby
- (v) Pajamas – clothes that you wear to sleep in
- (vi) Checkers –a game played by two people; each person has twelve red or black colored pieces to move around a board and you try to get from one side of the board to the other to win
- (vii) Bedtime – the time when we go to sleep

3) Comment on main character’s thoughts and feelings.

- (a) *How do you think Mom and Dad feel when they leave their children with the babysitter?* They will miss Little Critter and Little Sister while they are gone, but they are probably excited to go out
- (b) *Is Little Critter helpful when the babysitter comes?* Little Critter tries to help, but ends up making messes and staying up past his bedtime
- (c) *How do you think the babysitter feels when Little Critter and Little Sister have a pillow fight? How does she feel when Little Critter makes a mess in the kitchen? When he stays up too late?* She is probably not too happy about any of it.
- (d) *Does Little Critter have fun when the babysitter comes?* He does – he does all of the things he can’t do when his parents are there.
- (e) *Do you think Little Critter should try to be more helpful next time the babysitter comes?*

4) After reading - invite explanations, wonder aloud, and ask follow-up questions.

- (a) *Have you ever had a babysitter? Who was it?*
- (b) *Why do you think Mom and Dad left Little Critter and Little Sister with the babysitter?*
- (c) *What do you (or would you) like to do with a babysitter? Read books, play games, help in the kitchen, watch movies?*
- (d) *Why is the babysitter asleep when Mom and Dad come home?* She is so tired because Little Critter and Little Sister have stayed up so late.
- (e) *Do you think you could be a babysitter?*

Just Me and My Babysitter – Thursday and Friday

Fourth and Fifth Read-alouds

1) Before reading - encourage children to recall characters, problem and solution.

- (a) Characters –
 - (i) *Who came to take care of Little Critter and Little Sister when Mom and Dad went out for the night?* The babysitter
- (b) Problem –
 - (i) *Why is the babysitter so tired (and asleep on the couch) when Mom and Dad come home?*
Because Little Critter and Little Sister made such a mess of the house, and stayed up so late at night

2) While reading - expand vocabulary: introduce 8-10 words to highlight and define (show pictures & act out).

- (i) Babysitter – a person who takes care of children when their parents are not with them
- (ii) Go out – to leave the house (e.g. to go a friends house, dinner, a movie)
- (iii) Help – to make things easier or better
- (iv) Little sister – the younger sister, the baby
- (v) Pajamas – clothes that you wear to sleep in
- (vi) Checkers – a game played by two people; each person has twelve red or black colored pieces to move around a board and you try to get from one side of the board to the other to win
- (vii) Bedtime – the time when we go to sleep

3) Comment on main character's thoughts and feelings.

- (a) *How do you think Mom and Dad feel when they leave their children with the babysitter?* They will miss Little Critter and Little Sister while they are gone, but they are probably excited to go out
- (b) *Is Little Critter helpful when the babysitter comes?* Little Critter tries to help, but ends up making messes and staying up past his bedtime
- (c) *How do you think the babysitter feels when Little Critter and Little Sister have a pillow fight? How does she feel when Little Critter makes a mess in the kitchen? When he stays up too late?* She is probably not too happy about any of it.
- (d) *Does Little Critter have fun when the babysitter comes?* He does – he does all of the things he can't do when his parents are there.
- (e) *Do you think Little Critter should try to be more helpful next time the babysitter comes?*

4) Guide children to retell the story. Read pages between retellings. Ask questions that help children recall events of the story and explain what characters are thinking and feeling.

- (a) *Why do Mom and Dad leave Little Critter and his sister with a babysitter?* Because they want to go somewhere without their children – maybe somewhere that kids wouldn't think is fun.
- (b) *Where do you think Mom and Dad go?* They are dressed up in nice clothes, so maybe they are going to a play, or to a concert, or out to dinner.
- (c) *Does Little Critter eat his dinner? Who does eat it?* He feeds his dinner to the dog.
- (d) *What happens when Little Critter helps the babysitter with the dishes?* He breaks a plate and a cup.
- (e) *Do you think the babysitter likes the movie that she and Little Critter watch?* No, she looks bored!
- (f) *Do you think the babysitter will want to come back and babysit for Little Critter again?* It's hard to tell, but she might only want to come back if Little Critter is a better helper and goes to bed when he is supposed to.

5) After reading - invite explanations, wonder aloud, and ask follow-up questions.

- (a) *Have you ever had a babysitter? Who was it?*
- (b) *Why do you think Mom and Dad left Little Critter and Little Sister with the babysitter?*

- (c) *What do you (or would you) like to do with a babysitter? Read books, play games, help in the kitchen, watch movies?*
- (d) *Why is the babysitter asleep when Mom and Dad come home? She is so tired because Little Critter and Little Sister have stayed up so late.*
- (e) *Do you think you could be a babysitter?*