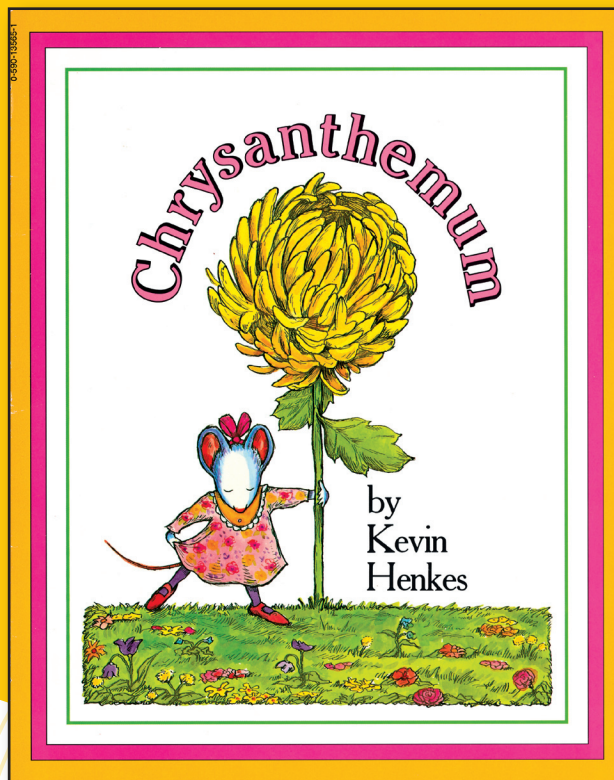


# Chrysanthemum

by Kevin Henkes

A little mouse named Chrysanthemum learns how special she is.



## Learning Goals

- **Oral Language/Vocabulary Concepts:** Feeling words (*beautiful, dreadful, funny, nice, perfect*)
- **Comprehension:** Understand a character

## English-Language Learners

**Preview** Be sure that children understand the meaning of Chrysanthemum's name. Use the illustrations of the flower to explain.

## Informal Assessment

- Are children using words that describe Chrysanthemum's feelings?
- Are children exploring the main character as a

## 1st Reading

### Build Understanding

**Read to Explore** Discuss the importance of people's names with children. Draw out that a name (or even a nickname) is very special to each one of us and we feel good when we hear our name.

Read aloud the title and explain that this is the name of the little mouse on the cover. During reading help children make predictions about the story using the following prompts and questions.

**Page 9:** Why do you think everyone giggled when they heard Chrysanthemum's name? How do you think Chrysanthemum feels when everyone giggled?

**Page 10:** Chrysanthemum does not think her name is perfect. Now it's dreadful. That doesn't sound good, does it? Dreadful means very bad or terrible.

**Page 13:** Does Chrysanthemum still think that her name is dreadful? How do we know? What do you think will happen next?

As you read aloud the rest of the story, pause to confirm predictions.

## Respond to the Book

**Oral Language** Show children page 8 in the book and ask them to use words that describe Chrysanthemum's feelings. Then do the same with other pages. Discuss how both the text and the illustrations help them understand Chrysanthemum's problem.

## 2nd Reading

### Build Vocabulary

**Reread for Meaning** Discussing the meaning of the vocabulary words below will help children understand the story better.

- Name some things that are beautiful.
- Is Chrysanthemum's name perfect or funny? Explain.
- Why weren't some of the girls nice to Chrysanthemum?
- An accident can be dreadful. What else may be dreadful or bad?

## Respond to the Book

**Writing** Have children practice writing their names for a display. Encourage each child to draw a picture of something really special that tells about him/her or his/her name.

## 3rd Reading

### Build Skills

**Reread to Comprehend** Explain to children that stories often have interesting and likeable characters. Use the following questions to get children thinking more about Chrysanthemum.

- Why do you think Chrysanthemum's parents say that she is perfect?
- Why do you think Chrysanthemum's classmates make fun of her name?
- What would you say to (do for) Chrysanthemum to make her feel better?

## Respond to the Book

**Science Connection** Bring in a field guide to flowers (or birds) and have children look through the book. If they could have a flower name, what would it be? Have them share the picture of the flower and explain why.