

Teacher Resource Guide

Jayylen's Christmas Wish



Developed by
Lavette Books

Teacher Resource Guide

Dear Educator,

Jayylen's Christmas Wish is divided into thematic sections.

Each section has questions and/or activities specifically focused on that section. Vocabulary will also be developed for some sections and a graphic organizer is included for this activity.

There are two graphic organizers to be used throughout the completion of the book – *Story Tracker* and *Character Encounter Chart*.

Section 1	Book Cover : Author and Illustrator	p. 1
Section 2	Secret Santa	pp. 2-5
Section 3	The Disappointment	pp. 6-11
Section 4	Cousin's Advice : Jayylen Raises Money	pp. 12-17
Section 5	The Plan	pp. 18-21
Section 6	Family Arrival	pp. 22-23
Section 7	Jayylen's Christmas Wish	p. 24

Resources: Graphic organizers are included in Appendix 1.
Extension Activities can be found in Appendix 2.

Interactive Read Aloud

Start the read aloud by explicitly sharing the purpose with students. Here are two examples:

"We are going to learn new words from our story. This will be helpful as you learn to read and write more." (Suggestion: Vocabulary Chart or create your own)

"We are going to learn about a little boy in the story, Jayylen. Listen carefully as we find out what problem he has and how his problem is solved." (Suggestion: Character Encounters Chart)

Benefits to a comprehension question:

- Give students a purpose for reading
- Focus students' attention on what they are to learn
- Help students to think actively as they read
- Encourage students to monitor their comprehension
- Allow students to make personal connections in and outside the text

Benefits of an Interactive Read Aloud

- Provides modeling for good fluent reading
- Creates a classroom community
- Creates an enjoyable classroom experience
- Allows students to listen to a higher leveled text
- Increases vocabulary
- Encourages imagination, visualization and creativity
- Deepens comprehension through discussion and active thinking

Characteristics of an Effective Comprehension Lesson

- Have a clear/targeted goal
- Use specific language that matches with the lesson
- Build one concept on another to progress in learning
- Allow time for students to practice the strategy
- Build academic vocabulary according to the level of students
- Foster community through a shared language
- Check for understanding to give accurate feedback
- Share metacognitive strategies to help students monitor their understanding of the text

First Read Aloud

Goal: Increase listening skills and develop vocabulary while enjoying Jayylen's Christmas Wish.

Vocabulary Development (Four Sections)

Section 2 – Secret Santa

(pp 2-5) groaned
exchange

Section 3 – “slump of her shoulders”

(pp. 6-11) Alaska
“on base”
“heart sank”
shrugged

Section 4 – barely

(pp. 12-17)

Section 5 – “lump in his throat”

(pp. 18-21)

Section 6 – barracks

(p.-22)

Say - Listen as I read the story – Jayylen's Christmas Wish by Lavaille Lavette and illustrated by David Wilkerson. We are going to learn new words, build our comprehension and analyze the characters from our story. Today I want you to listen carefully and enjoy the text.

Ask the following comprehension question at the start of the read aloud to give a purpose for reading and making connections to the text. Student shares responses.

Say - What do you think is Jayylen's Christmas wish?

Suggestion: Post the comprehension question before reading.

Post the vocabulary words and the vocabulary chart for that section.

Ask students what they already know about each word before reading.

Then give the definition so students can write the definition in the appropriate box. Allow students to turn and talk with a partner to create a sentence or picture demonstrating the word.

Give a definition within context.

The examples of words with similar meaning is a bonus activity for the chart.

Turn and Talk Strategy

During this read aloud have students share with a partner. Students can receive about a minute to give each student an opportunity to respond to the question. If needed, name an *A* and *B* partner to control who should be sharing and who should be listening during ***Turn and Talk Strategy***.

Revisit this same vocabulary process for sections 3, 4, 5 and 6.

VOCABULARY CHART	
Word/Phrase	Definition/In Context
Sentence or Picture	Examples of words with similar meaning

See Appendix 1

Second Read Aloud

Goal: Increase listening skills, comprehension and develop critical thinking as students become more actively involved in the read aloud.

Ask the following comprehension question at the start of the read aloud to give a purpose for reading and making connections to the text. Student shares responses.

Say – *Have you ever had a Christmas wish?*

After developing vocabulary, use the *Story Tracker* as each section of the book is read. Model a response for one or two sections.

Then allow students to ***Turn and Talk Strategy*** with a partner as they write their responses in the Story Tracker. Share responses.

Story Tracker	
What's happening?/Why? (pp.2-5)	What's happening?/Why? (pp. 6-11)
What's happening?/Why? (pp. 12-17)	What's happening?/Why? (pp. 18-21)
What's happening?/Why? (pp.22-23)	What's happening?/Why? (p.24)
Author's Conclusion	My Thoughts (Student)

See Appendix 1

To increase comprehension, the *Character Encounter Chart* is also available to help students analyze the character as events happen in the text.

This chart is also used for each section to note the changes or non-changes in the character development. An example for Jayylen is below:

Character Encounter

Name	Character Traits	Evidence	Any Changes	Evidence
Jaylene	Loved his family and excited to buy a gift	Jayylen asked his sister to drive him to buy a gift	No	Jayylen decided to raise money to buy the gift
Hazel				
Mom (Helen)				
Cousin (Lamson)				
Paw Paw Jimmy				
Grandma Louvanna				
Manuel				

See Appendix 1

To increase comprehension, the following *Main Idea* graphic organizer can be used to support students to organize their thoughts to get the gist of each reading section.

Main Idea		
Supporting Detail	Supporting Detail	Supporting Detail

See Appendix 1

Model the thinking first as you go through the process of filling out the *Main Idea* chart during the read aloud.

Then allow students to use the ***Turn and Talk Strategy*** with a partner to create the main idea and supporting details.

The following are questions that can be asked for each section using the *Read - Stop- Say Something Strategy*.

Section 1 Book Cover and page 1 : Author and Illustration

What can you tell me about the cover of this book?

Possible Response: There are two males hugging. They are possibly related. There is a Christmas tree so it must be Christmas time.

Who is the author and illustrator?

Response: Lavaille Lavette is the author. David Wilkerson is the illustrator.

Section 2 Secret Santa pages 2-5

What is the setting of the story? How do you know?

Possible Response: The season is Christmas. The story starts in the living room (Den or family room). There is a decorated Christmas tree and stockings on the fireplace, Christmas wreath and gifts.



What is the relationship of the characters?

Possible Responses: Jayylen is Hazel's brother. They are family. Tyrone is Jayylen's father (in the Santa suit).

What does the term, "Secret Santa" mean?

Possible Response: "Secret Santa" means you are giving a gift secretly to someone for Christmas and you reveal your self later or on Christmas.

Why does Jayylen need his sister's help?

Possible Response: He hasn't bought his "secret santa" gift. He needed Hazel to drive him to the store.

Section 3 The Disappointment pages 6-11

Why did Jayylen's mom, Helen, have a tear run down her cheek after talking on the phone to Manuel?

Possible Response: She received sad news. She was disappointed and hurt that Manuel wasn't coming home for Christmas.

What was Jayylen's problem?

Possible Response: Jayylen's problem was how to involve Manuel in the Christmas celebration.



Was Hazel able to help Jayylen with his problem?

Possible Response: Not at this time. She shrugged her shoulders and said, “What’s the Point? Manuel’s stuck in Alaska, and that’s that.”

What advise can you give Jayylen?

Possible Response: (Open student response)

Section 4 Cousin’s Advice pages 12-13

What was Lamson’s solution to Jayylen’s problem?

Possible Response: Lamson’s solution to Jayylen’s problem was to “bring home” to Manuel by sending his gift and some Christmas cookies.



Did Jayylen like his cousin’s advise?

Possible Response: Yes, he liked his cousin’s advise because it guided Jayylen toward thinking of something even better.

What did Jayylen decide to do?

Possible Response: Jayylen decided to raise money to bring his family to Alaska.

Jayylen Raises Money pages 14-17

What was Jayylen’s strategy for raising money?

Possible Response: Jayylen decided to do several odd jobs to raise money; helped neighbors put up Christmas lights, carried groceries, walked dogs, sold model trains and helped Paw Paw Jimmy’s friends set up their email.

Was it enough to buy airline tickets for the entire family?

Possible Response: No, it was not enough to buy airline tickets for the entire family.

How do you know?

Possible Response: His sister Hazel, looked at the cash and saw that it was not enough money raised for tickets for the entire family.



Section 5 The Plan pages 18-21

Why did Jayylen need a plan?

Possible Response: Jayylen needed a plan to buy airline tickets for the entire family.

What was the plan?

Possible Response: He decided to raise the money.

How did he resolve his dilemma using the plan?

Possible Response: Since he did not have enough money, his sister, Hazel gave him the money she had been saving from her paychecks.

What part of the plan did Paw Paw Jimmy and Grandma Louvanna contribute to the plan?

Possible Response: Paw Paw Jimmy and Grandma Louvanna encouraged Jayylen to follow through with the plan to take the family to Alaska. They were very excited about the idea and wanted to tell Jayylen’s parents.

Section 6 Family Arrival pages 22-23

Who celebrated Christmas with Manuel?

Possible Response: Manuel celebrated Christmas with Jayylen, Mom (Helen), Dad (Tyrone), sister (Hazel), Paw Paw Jimmy, Grandma Louvanna and other soldiers from his barracks.

How do you think Jayylen feels now? Describe these feelings.

Possible Response: Jayylen feels happy and excited. He was so thrilled to have his family together for Christmas.

Use the following chart for students to make connections and identify the food Jayylen’s family had for Christmas.

Jayylen’s Family Christmas Meal		
Christmas Dinner	Check if you have eaten this food item	List the food items your family’s Christmas meal
gumbo		
dressing		
mac and cheese		
potato salad		
peas		
fried turkey		
sweet potato pie		
gelatin rainbow treats		

See Appendix 1

Section 7 Jayylen's Christmas Wish page 24

Why did Jayylen say, "Both of our Christmas wishes came true!"
Did you enjoy the ending to the story? Why or why not?

Possible Responses: Manuel said that Jayylen's idea made his Christmas wish come true. Also, Jayylen had the same wish as Manuel.
(Last two questions, accept all responses.)



APPENDIX 1

Jayylen's Family Christmas Meal

Christmas Dinner	Check if you have eaten this food item	List the food items your family's Christmas meal
gumbo		
dressing		
mac and cheese		
potato salad		
peas		
fried turkey		
sweet potato pie		
gelatin rainbow treats		

VOCABULARY
Jayylen's Christmas Wish

Word/Phrase

Definition/In Context

Sentence or Picture

**Examples of words with Similar
Meaning**

Story Tracker

What's happening?/Why? (pp.2-5)	What's happening?/Why? (pp. 6-11)
What's happening?/Why? (P. 12 -17)	What's happening?/Why? (pp. 18-21)
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Author's Conclusion	My Thoughts

Character Encounter

Name	Character Traits	Evidence	Any Changes	Evidence
Jayylen	Loved his family and excited to buy a gift	Jayylen asked his sister to drive him to buy a gift	No	Jayylen decided to raise money to buy the gift
Hazel				
Mom (Helen)				
Cousin (Lamson)				
Paw Paw Jimmy				
Grandma Louvanna				
Manuel				

MAIN IDEA			
Supporting Details	Supporting Details	Supporting Details	

APPENDIX 2

(Extension Activities)

BRAIN TRIVIA – Test Your Knowledge

Read each trivia question. Allow the child/children to respond. Celebrate all correct responses with a high five or a celebration dance.

1. Who is the author of Jayylen's Christmas Wish?
(Lavaille Lavette)
2. Where was Jayylen's brother, Manuel?
(Alaska, army, on-base)
3. What does shrugged mean?
(one's shoulder raised slightly to express doubt)
4. What was meant by Secret Santa?
(one person gives a secret gift to someone)
5. What was Jayylen's cousin's name?
(Lamson)
6. How did Jayylen raise money for the tickets to see Manuel?
(Odd jobs -. He helped neighbors put up Christmas decorations. He carried groceries. He walked dogs. He helped set up emails for Paw Paw Jimmy's friends. He sold modeled trains.)
7. What was Jayylen's wish?
(To celebrate Christmas with Manuel)
8. What advise did his cousin give that sparked him to raise money for his Christmas wish?
("bring home to him")

Do You Know

1. Do you know Jayylen's mother's name? _____
2. Do you know Jayylen's father's name? _____
3. Do you know who said, "Bring home to him?" _____
4. Do you know who said, "Your idea made my Christmas wish come true." ? _____
5. Do you know who said, "Let's go tell your parents the plan" ? _____
6. Do you know Jayylen's sister's name? _____
7. Do you know Jayylen's grandfather's name? _____
8. Do you know who received a new driver's license? _____
9. Do you know who else attended the Christmas celebration besides the family? _____

Answers: 1. Helen 2. Tyrone 3.Lamson 4. Manuel 5. Grandma Louvanna 6. Hazel
7. Paw Paw Jimmy 8. Hazel 9. Soldiers

Retell the Story – Orally or Written

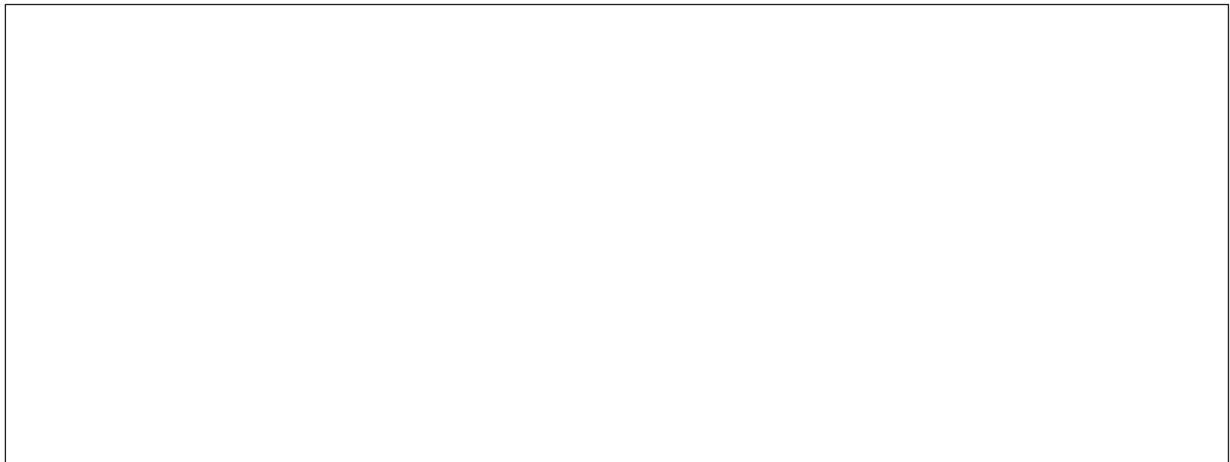
Retell the story in your own words thinking about the beginning, middle and end.

Beginning

Middle

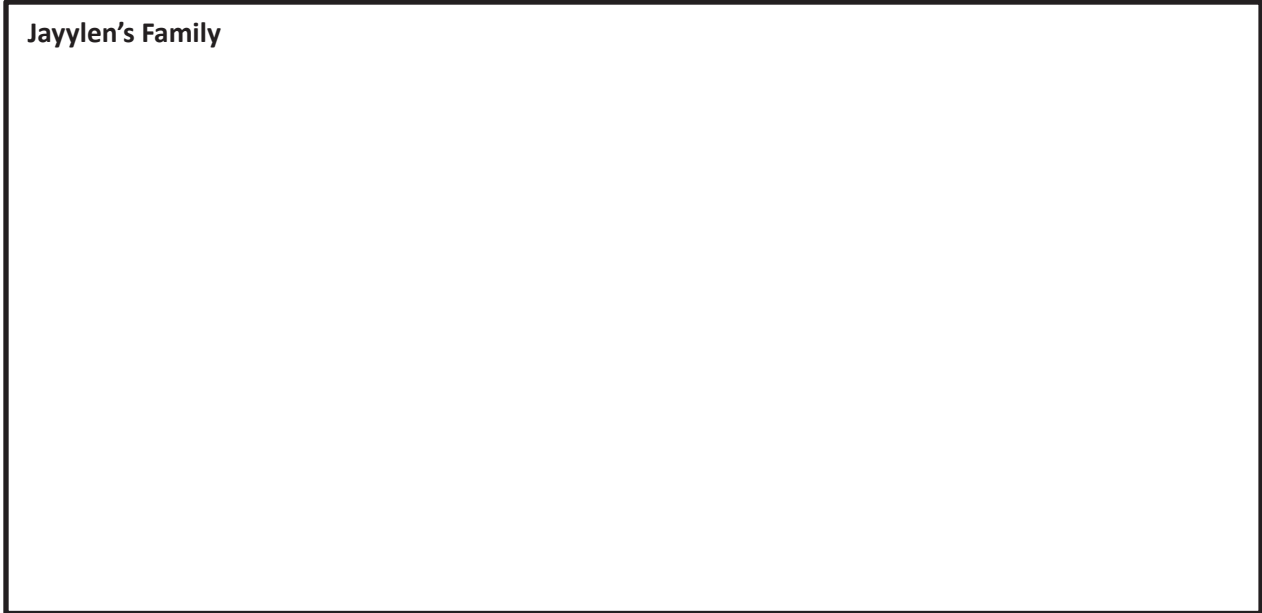
End

Retell or illustrate the story with a different ending.

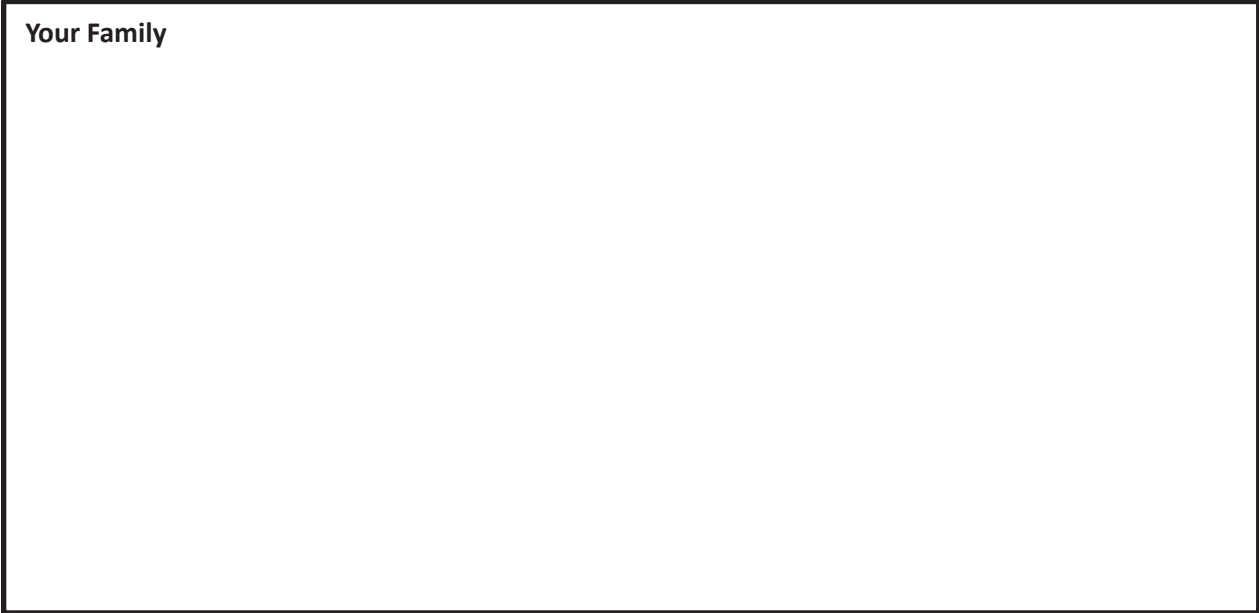


Draw a picture relating to family Christmas traditions. Compare and contrast your Christmas traditions to Jayylen's Christmas traditions.

Jayylen's Family



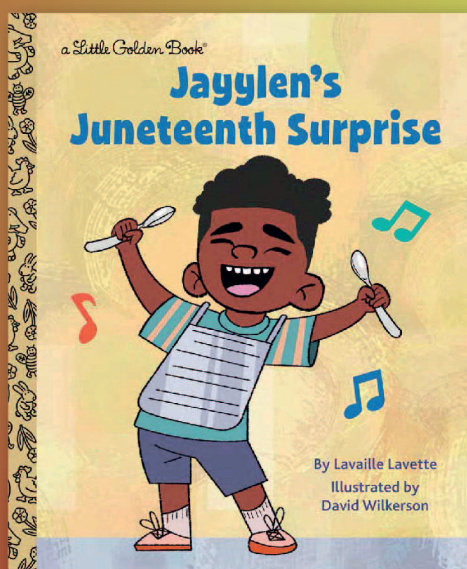
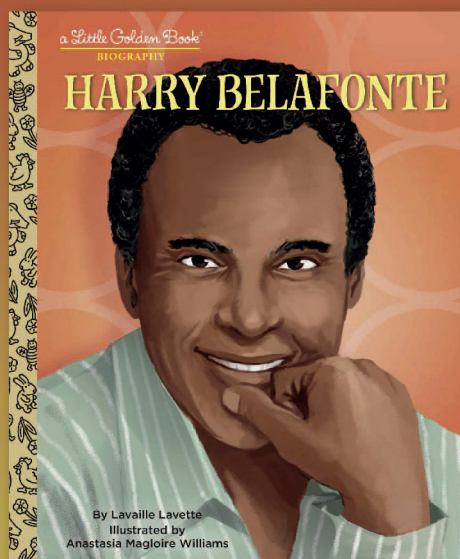
Your Family



CHOICE BOARD - Choose one or more projects below to promote learning.

Select one activity from your Christmas celebration and develop a comic strip to show fun and action between family and friends.	Research a Christmas song. Share the author and origin and background of the lyrics. Also, share various pictures if needed.	If you were Jayylen's friend, what message would you tell him to support him through his problem. What questions would you ask him?
Write an invitational letter to invite friends and family to your pretend Christmas gathering. Share the activities and meal with pictures to create excitement. Use many descriptive words to encourage readers to want to attend your Christmas celebration.	Create a collage of photos showing the joy of family and friends at Christmas time. Drawing pictures can also be used.	Pretend you are a TV reporter and create a video reporting on the Christmas celebration with Jayylen and family.
Select a character from the story and write at least three sentences about them.	Jayylen enjoys reading and learning about his hero, Elijah McCoy. Who/What do you enjoy reading about? Explain what and why.	Interview 3 people and find out how they celebrate Christmas Example Questions: Who do you celebrate Christmas with and where? What is the normal Christmas meal? What games or activities you do on Christmas?

Check out a few more great books!



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