

Mandy

By: Julie Edwards



Grades 5th and 6th

Erin Libby

Teacher's Notes

Book: Mandy

Author: Julie Edwards

Grade Level: Fifth and Sixth Grade

Pages: 230

-This book is long (46 chapters), however the chapters are not long and the book is worth it. It could take about a month to finish in class, maybe longer depending on how the teacher plans it.

Content of Unit Material:

-Vocabulary: Some of the vocabulary in this book will be unrecognizable to the children. This is a great opportunity for the students to get use to using the dictionary to look up words they do not know. It will also help broaden their vocabulary. There will be a list of vocabulary words at the beginning of each assignment. It is best if the students are given this list before they read the chapters, so that they can write down the meanings to the words as they come across them in the chapters.

-Comprehension Questions: This part contains a list of questions that go along with each of the chapters. These questions can be given as a worksheet for the students to fill out as they read. The questions may also be used in quiz form to be given the day after the chapters are assigned. The questions are just basic questions about the chapters to make sure the students read the chapters, and to make sure they understood the basic happenings and ideas in the chapters.

-Creative Projects: For each set of chapters there will be one or two creative activities to go along with them. These activities will either be some project for the students to do, or a class discussion topic for the whole class and the teacher to talk about together. These projects can be used at the teacher's discretion. There may not be enough time to do them all, however, it would be good to pick some of them out.

*Each page which contains the vocabulary, comprehension questions, and creative projects will combine the reading from two chapters.

Why read this book?

I feel that this book is great for a class book unit. In the book there are many areas for the students to use their imaginations, and spark creativity. It does contain some difficult vocabulary words, however, the students are going to have to read things which contain difficult words, and this gets them use to using the dictionary to look up words they do not know. The book also allows for opportunities for the students and teacher to discuss certain situations which occur in the book, and how a Christian should handle these situations. Mandy's situation in the book also shows the students a different perspective on life. They will see how the fact that Mandy is an orphan effects her. The teacher can point out how God has blessed each of them with loving people to care for them whether it is a Mother and Father, or some other relative. It also allows for some Bible search by the students. The only warning I have is that on page 211 you will find a curse word.

Part One- Spring: The Discovery

Chapters One and Two

Vocabulary

Orphanage-
Matron-
Obsession-
Impulse-
Vista-
Cultivated-
Tentatively-
Hillock-
Iridescent-
Quaint-
Entrancing-

Comprehension Questions

1. What is the name of the orphanage?
2. Who runs the orphanage, and what are her duties?
3. Who is the main character, and how long had she been at the orphanage?
4. What privileges was she given?
5. How did she make money?
6. What was her problem?
7. What made her curious?
8. How did she get over the wall?
9. What was her discovery?
10. What one thing amazed her while she was exploring her discovery?
11. What did she decide to do with her discovery?

Activities

1. While you are reading make a list of every animal that enters the story from beginning to end.
2. Draw a picture of the house and the area around it as described in the book.
3. Pretend you have a mysterious wall in your back yard and write a paragraph or two about what you imagine would be behind the wall.
4. Pretend you have found a house like Mandy and make a list of things you would need for the house.
5. Write a story about how you think all the seashells got on the walls in the room in Mandy's house.

Part One

Chapters Three and Four

Vocabulary

Initiative-
Preoccupied-
Waistcoat-
Trowel-
Muslim-
Anticipation-
Rhododendrons-
Methodically-
Flagstones-
Nasturtiums-

Comprehension Questions

1. What was the name of Mandy's close friend?
2. Where was Mandy's room in the orphanage?
3. What did Mandy find out about the area behind the wall?
4. What did Many want from Jake?
5. What was Jake's "religion", and what is wrong with it?
6. What did Jake give her?
7. What did Mandy want from Alice?
8. How did Mandy solve her problem with the wall and her supplies?
9. When Mandy reached the cottage what did she decide to do first?
10. What weed was growing everywhere?
11. What was Mandy going to buy the next day for her next project?
12. What did Many decide to use the fireplace for?

Activities

1. Make a chronological list of the general things Mandy did in chapter four when she was done with school.
2. In a few paragraphs tell what you would do to the house and yard if you were Mandy.

Part One

Chapters Five and Six

Vocabulary

Conscientious-

Spade-

Twine-

Perspiration-

Comprehension Questions

1. What was Mandy's plan for after work?
2. Who owned the store where Mandy worked, and how did Mandy feel about them?
3. What were Mandy's main jobs at the store?
4. What did Mandy find out when she first reached Mr. Simple's store that almost stopped her from making her purchase?
5. What nice thing did Mr. Simple do to help Mandy out with her money problem?
6. How did Mandy reply when Alice asked her what she was up to?
7. What was the one thing Alice refused to give her, and why?
8. Why did Mandy get mad?
9. Why did Mandy not tell Sue about her discovery?

Activity

1. Plan your own garden, and tell exactly what you would like to plant in it.

Group Discussion

1. Why was it wrong for Mandy to take the rope, and how could she have solved her problem without taking the rope?

Part One

Chapters Seven and Eight

Vocabulary

Bedded-
Nourishment-
Bedraggled-
Fatigue-
Cutlery-
Conspiratorial-
Justify-

Comprehension Questions

1. How did Mandy view her plants?
2. Why was she disappointed when she first viewed her work?
3. By the end of the day what was Mandy over the worst of ?
4. What unpleasant thing did Many think she “had” to do when Sue approached her, and did she really “have” to do this?
5. What suggestion did Sue make, and what was Mandy’s reply?
6. What did Mandy do on Sunday morning?
7. What idea did Many get at the breakfast table that wasn’t good?
8. What was Mandy’s one big social event of the week?
9. What lie did Many tell Mr. Simple?
10. What did Mandy pray for?
11. What did Father Mulligan say that made Many think?
12. How did Mandy justify her actions?

Activity

1. In class each of you will plant and care for your own flower. You will each have to write journal entries on the progress your flower makes, and what you do to help it grow.

Group Discussion

1. What were some of Mandy’s wrong attitudes toward church, and what were some of her wrong attitudes while she was at church?

Part One

Chapters Nine and Ten

Vocabulary

Transplant-
Debris-
Adept-
Keen-
Flue-
Disheveled-

Comprehension Questions

1. What did Mandy transplant?
2. Who let Mandy borrow a broom?
3. Why was Mandy glad to work inside the cottage?
4. What did Mandy watch from out of her window?
5. What did Mandy purchase on Monday?
6. What did she use to trim the lawn?
7. What things kept her away from the cottage?
8. What "bad plan" did she continue?
9. What did Mandy collect on her walk to the cottage?
10. Why would the Matron be furious at Mandy?
11. What caused Mandy's problem with the fireplace?
12. What about Mandy gave away that she had been around a fire?

Activity

1. Draw up a plan for how Mandy could build a bird bath.

Part One

Chapters Eleven and Twelve

Vocabulary

Trepidation-

Penetrating-

Famished-

Trivet-

Vicinity-

Turmoil-

Comprehension Questions

1. Why did Mandy get called to the Matron's office?
2. What dilemma did Mandy go through in her mind, and what was her decision?
3. What solution did the Matron come up with for Mandy to have something of her own, and what was Mandy's reply?
4. Give two reasons why Mandy was upset.
5. How did her lying problem continue?
6. What purchase did Mandy make?
7. How did her garden look?
8. Who did Mandy try to make friends with, and what did she name this friend?
9. What did Mandy do that afternoon, and what "luckily" happened?
10. What caught Mandy's attention as she was getting ready to go?

Activity

1. Pick one of the birds mentioned in chapter twelve (a blue jay, sparrow, or barn owl), and do a one page report on it.

Group Discussion

1. Mandy has been lying more and more, and in chapter eleven she decided that the best thing to do was lie, and she did several times to the Matron. Bring up some of Mandy's previous lies. Why is it not good to lie, and what could have Mandy done different in the situations?

Part Two- Summer: The Garden

Chapters One and Two

Vocabulary

Placate-

Avert-

Parallel-

Defiant-

Antagonize-

Commencing-

Dissuade-

Comprehension Questions

1. What was Mandy angry about in the beginning of chapter one?
2. What new discovery did Mandy make when she followed the small path, and why did it make her happy?
3. How did Mandy's garden look by the first of July?
4. What visitor did Mandy have?
5. What did Mandy discover in the back of the house?
6. What was Mandy continuing to do that she shouldn't, and how did she make herself feel better about it?

Activity

1. Draw a picture of Mandy's garden and color it in following the color description in chapter two.

Group Discussion

1. Was it okay for Mandy to take things from the orphanage since she planned to replace them when she had the money?

Part Two

Chapters Three and Four

Vocabulary

Ample-
Suffocating-
Anxiety-
Immobilized-
Destination-
Stupor-
Prominent-
Exquisite-

Comprehension Questions

1. What did Matron Birdie talk to Mandy about?
2. What did Matron Birdie tell the whole orphanage?
3. How did Mandy's lying and stealing affect her?
4. What did Mandy make out of a large wooden crate?
5. Which friend visited her almost every morning?
6. When Mandy didn't work on the house or garden what did she do?
7. What sent Mandy into a panic, and why did her panic change into excitement?
8. What did Mandy dream that night?

Activity

1. Write down five different things that Mandy could have used for furniture, or made into furniture to put in her cottage. While you do this keep in mind the resources that were available to Mandy. She could ask for old things from the store where she worked, old things from the orphanage, or find things in the woods.

Part Two

Chapters Five and Six

Vocabulary

Nonchalant-
Charabanc-
Excursion-
Exasperation-

Comprehension Questions

1. Why was Mandy having problems getting away from the orphanage?
2. What did Mandy really want from Jake, and why was it a problem?
3. What event happened at the orphanage during the Bank Holiday Weekend?
4. What was Mandy's plans to get out of the event.
5. Why did Mandy feel staying at the orphanage would be worth it even if she didn't get to her cottage?
6. What is the first thing she went to do when she got outside?

Activity

1. Write a paragraph or two about why you feel Mandy should or shouldn't have taken the garden shears. Include any things which could have been dangerous.

Part Two

Chapters Seven and Eight

Vocabulary

Inquisitive-
Depressed-
Alignment-
Reliable-
Alternative-

Comprehension Questions

1. What problem did Mandy have with the shears?
2. How did she decide to tackle her problem?
3. What happened when Mandy attempted to cut the big branches with the shears one more time?
4. What did Mandy decide to do about her problem?
5. What was Mandy's reaction when the Matron confronted her about the shears?
6. What did Mandy finally do that she should have done before?
7. Even though Mandy did the right thing at first what did she still refuse to do?
8. What was Mandy's punishment?

Group Discussion

1. When Mandy broke the shears she decided to keep it a secret. In our lives when run across many instances where a secret might come into play. Sometimes it is good to keep a secret, like with a present you are giving someone, and sometimes it is wrong to keep a secret, like when Mandy decided not to tell about the broken shears. Come up with some other examples of good secrets and bad secrets.

Part Three- Autumn: Foreboding and Punishment

Chapters One and Two

Vocabulary

Claustrophobic-

Copiously-

Anguish-

Solicitous-

Comprehension Questions

1. When Mandy became angry what did she think about doing?
2. What did Mandy do most of the time during her punishment week?
3. What did Sue start out trying to do, and what did Mandy want to do?
4. How did Mandy's silence change Sue's attitude?
5. What shocked Mandy when she opened the kitchen door to get more wood?
6. Why was Mandy nervous after she made her discovery?
7. What started again that limited Mandy's time at her cottage?
8. What did Mandy feel was worth her week long punishment?

Activity

1. In chapter two Mandy discovers two large foot prints. She imagines that it might be a tramp, a burglar, or a prince. Write a short story using one of these characters telling what he was doing at the cottage while Mandy was gone.

Group Discussion

1. *Before you have this discussion have the students find two or three instances or passages in the Bible which speak against revenge.
-At the Beginning of chapter one Mandy wanted to run away, and make the Matron worry about her. She even thinks, "And it would serve Matron right!" Does it seem like Mandy is thinking about revenge? What does God tell us about revenge?

Part Three

Chapters Five and Six

Vocabulary

Generosity-
Serenely-
Vehemence-

Comprehension Questions

1. What did Mandy come down with, and what did she do about it?
2. What two surprises did Mandy get when she returned to her cottage?
3. Why did these surprises relieve Mandy?
4. Who did Mandy think the surprises came from?
5. Why did Mandy not want to go to school, and what made her decide that she had better go?
6. What did Mandy find on the living room floor?
7. Who was Mandy's surprise guest?
8. How did Mandy act toward her guest?
9. Why was the Matron worried?

Activity

1. Pretend you are the one who wrote the notes to Mandy. Write a diary entry for both of the days that you left notes for Mandy telling why you did it, and any other information you want to add.

Part Three

Chapters Nine and Ten

Vocabulary

Laboriously-

Undulating-

Consternation-

Delirious-

Pneumonia-

Distraught-

Comprehension Questions

1. What happened to Mandy's condition while she was in the cottage?
2. What was her purpose for being there?
3. Why couldn't she finish the note?
4. What did Mandy try to do, but realized she couldn't?
5. What did Ellie discover?
6. Why did the doctor say Mandy should not be outside?
7. Who did the doctor say owned the area where Mandy had gone?
8. Why did the Matron feel sorry for Mandy?
9. What did the doctor suggest to do to reach Mandy quickly?

Activity

1. Mandy wasn't able to finish her note. Take the part of the note that she did write and finish it for her. Explain why Mandy would not be able to come to the cottage for awhile.

“Dear Friend,

I am very sick, and I am worried that....”

Part Three

Chapters Eleven and Twelve

Vocabulary

Tureen-
Canter-
Nausea-
Incoherent-

Comprehension Questions

1. What new setting starts chapter eleven?
2. What did Bill Fitzgerald call Mandy's cottage?
3. What did Mr. Fitzgerald say he would do when he heard the situation?
4. When Mandy first saw Mr. Fitzgerald who did she think he was?
5. Way was Mandy frightened when he got close?
6. What made Mandy feel that the worst was behind her?

Activity

1. In chapter eleven we learned that the Fitzgerald's butler's name is Samson. It was said that he was the opposite of his Biblical namesake. Describe the Samson in the book, and then find the account of Samson in the Bible. After reading the account in the Bible explain why the author said they were opposite.

Part Four

Chapters Thirteen and Fourteen

Vocabulary

Ambivalent-

Comprehension Questions

1. Why did Mandy want to stay in the orphanage one more night?
2. Why was Sue sad?
3. Describe Mandy's send off.
4. Before they went to the house what did Bill do for Mandy?
5. What did Mandy learn about the history of Shell Cottage?
6. What idea did Mandy come up with concerning the cottage?
7. Why was Mandy finally content?

Activities

1. Describe: a) how Mandy felt at the beginning of the story, b) how the cottage changed her feelings; but not completely, c) how she was affected by her stay at the Fitzgeralds, d) how she felt after she left the Fitzgeralds, and e) how she felt at the end of the story.
2. Go for a nature walk as a class and have the students point out things that remind them of the book, or a scene that was described in the book.

Group Discussion

1. Bill tells Mandy that luck has something to do with her situation. As Christians how would we explain Mandy's situation to her differently than Bill had?

Part Four- Winter: A Christmas Wish

Chapters One and Two

Vocabulary

Distorted-

Parched-

Lucid-

Listlessly-

Comprehension Questions

1. Why was Mandy confused when she finally woke up after her rescue?
2. What kind of illness did Mandy have besides just a physical one?
3. What were the two things mentioned that would help cure her?
4. What did the doctor tell Mandy that her illness was?
5. When Mandy was introduced to Bill Fitzgerald who did she recognize him as?
6. Why was Mandy glad that Sue had discovered the cottage?

Activity

1. Mandy described her rescue as a miracle. Find an account in the Bible in which Jesus performed a miracle to save someone's life.

Part Four

Chapters Three and Four

Vocabulary

Ludicrous-

Indigenous-

Solemn-

Comprehension Questions

1. Which three new people of the Fitzgerald household did Mandy meet, and what were their occupations?
2. Why did the Fitzgeralds buy the house near the orphanage?
3. Which new person did Mandy learn about, and how did she feel about this discovery?
4. What was something that Mandy never talked about?
5. Who was Mandy's most important visitor?
6. Why was Sue envious of Mandy?

Group Discussion

1. At this point Mandy thinks about how often she has felt lost and lonely. From what we have read so far what are some reasons why Mandy might have felt this way, even though she has been in a caring environment surrounded by other girls her whole life.

Part Four

Chapters Five and Six

Vocabulary

Nonchalantly-

Escapade-

Embellishments-

Acoustics-

Forlorn-

Imminent-

Comprehension Questions

1. What did Mrs. Fitzgerald suggest Jonathan do with Mandy?
2. At one point Mandy felt lonely and left out, why?
3. What did Mrs. Fitzgerald suggest they do the next night, and how did Mandy feel about this suggestion?
4. What did Jonathan find in the house?
5. What did Mandy forget at dinner?
6. What secret did Mrs. Fitzgerald show Mandy?
7. What did Mandy and the three Fitzgeralds do together?

Activity

1. Pretend you were able to explore the Fitzgerald's house and you found a secret passage. Explain where it would be, how you could get to it, and where it would lead to.

Part Four

Chapters Seven and Eight

Vocabulary

Reprimand-
Obliterated-
Desolate-
Bewilderment-

Comprehension Questions

1. What came one day that made Mrs. Fitzgerald happy?
2. What did Jonathan make in the stableyard?
3. What did Mandy do with Jonathan?
4. What happened when Jonathan showed Mandy the secret passage he found?
5. When Mandy woke up from her nap what comforted her?
6. Why was Mandy troubled when she thought of the orphanage?
7. What did Mandy learn from Bill?
8. Why was Mandy upset by what Bill told her?

Group Discussion

1. Mandy sometimes gets sad because of things she doesn't have. Think of things that Mandy does have and can be happy about. Think of things in your own life that God has blessed you with. What is one thing that God has blessed you with that Mandy really wanted?

Part Four

Chapters Nine and Ten

Vocabulary

Wan-

Petulant-

Comprehension Questions

1. What happened to Mandy?
2. Why did Mandy not want to see the Matron?
3. What did the Matron tell Mandy?
4. What was Mandy allowed to do on Christmas Eve?
5. What did Mandy get for Christmas?
6. What did Mrs. Fitzgerald do to the dining room?
7. Why did Mandy go to bed sad after such a wonderful day?
8. What happened at twelve o' clock on the day after Christmas?
9. What was the one thing that distracted Mandy from her sadness?

Activity

1. In chapter nine we read what Mandy and the Fitzgeralds did on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. Write two or three paragraphs on what your family does on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, include any family traditions.

Part Four

Chapters Eleven and Twelve

Vocabulary

Evasive-

Dissuade-

Comprehension Questions

1. Why was Mandy uncertain about calling the Fitzgeralds?
2. What did the Matron tell Mrs. Fitzgerald concerning Mandy?
3. Why did Bill say that Mandy's Christmas there might have caused her more troubles?
4. What could Mandy not stop thinking about?
5. What emotion was she feeling for the first time in her life?
6. What decision did Mandy make to "solve" her problem?
7. What happened that night which changed Mandy's plans?

Group Discussion

1. If things hadn't turned out the way they did Mandy would have run away. Was this a good solution to her problems? Why or why not?