

The  
Early Years Count  
**Literacy**  
Connection



**Grilled Cheese?  
Yes, Please!**

Written and illustrated by Tim  
Kleyn

*Preschool edition*

**Overview of Book**

Margot and her grandpa have the perfect meal planned for the stormy and windy night. They wait for Margot's mama who left in her boat hours ago. Margot hopes and worries about her mama as they make supper for others caught in the storm. Will Mama make it home?

Genre: Picture

**Vocabulary**

Books are a rich source of words new to children. Here are some words from *Grilled Cheese? Yes, Please!* to introduce in your classroom:

anxiously                      merchant  
sailor                            struggle

Each time you read the book, choose 2 or 3 words to highlight.

Use age-appropriate definitions and/or the illustrations to help children gain an understanding of each word's meaning.

Use these new words throughout the day, reminding the children, "That's a word from our story!"

**Connecting with the  
HighScope Curriculum**

**COR Advantage**

Approaches To Learning  
Item B (*Problem solving  
with materials*)

Social And Emotional  
Development  
Item D (*Emotions*)

Mathematics  
Item S (*Number and  
counting*)

Language, Literacy and  
Communication  
Item Q (*Book enjoyment  
and knowledge*)

**Reading Tips**

Let the group know that they might feel worried or anxious along with Margot, the girl in the story. As you read, encourage the children to notice all the feelings and emotions and how that is like being on the ocean in a storm. The back-and-forth of hope-worry-hope-worry. Ask, "How do you think the other sailors feel about having a safe place to be?" Talk about how everyone worked together to get mama safely home. Make charts about who likes/does not like grilled cheese and tomato soup and who likes or doesn't like storms.

Three readings are recommended to familiarize children with the story. Each reading provides an opportunity to introduce new vocabulary words, pose open-ended questions, and engage children in activities that make the story "come alive."

### **Throughout the Routine**

Refer to the book throughout the day and use new vocabulary words in meaningful ways. Active engagement with the story helps the content come alive.

For the easy to join part of **Large Group Time**, have the children sit on the carpet and pretend they are in a small boat in a storm.

At **Small Group Time**, use magna-tile squares to pretend to be grilled cheese sandwiches. How many can you stack? Let's count! Ask, "How many total?" after children count.

### **Around the Room**

Highlight the book's content and build on the children's excitement in a variety of locations.

Have different boats and lots of water in the **Sand and Water table**. Encourage the children to "make waves" to see how easy-or difficult it is to capsize a boat. (Get lots of smocks and towels, too!)

Add string and yarn to the **Toy Area**. Encourage exploration with knots and winding it around other objects.

Add "When The Storm Comes" by Linda Ashman to the **Book Area**.

### **Open-ended Questions**

Enhance active engagement and early critical thinking skills by asking open-ended questions. These questions encourage children to explain why or how things happen, make predictions, or brainstorm possibilities rather than give one "right" answer.

Here are some questions you might ask for *Grilled Cheese? Yes, Please!*:

What was your favorite part of the story?

Why do you think the sailors helped get Mama to safety?

What else could Margot do if she ran out of sandwiches?

*For more information on how to use books and stories with children to enhance your curriculum, contact **The Family Connection:***

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[www.famconn.org](http://www.famconn.org)

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[@famconnsjc](https://www.facebook.com/famconnsjc)

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### **@ Home**

Since many of the children in our county will have this book at home, use it as a way to further the home-school connection. In your daily contact—in person or by text, email or other notes home—encourage families to share *Grilled Cheese? Yes, Please!* with their child. Here's a sample message you can send:

As you and your child read this emotional story, talk seriously about how worried and anxious Margot is. Ask questions like, "What would Margot do if her Grandpa was not there with her?" Notice together how much easier it is to cope with the worry when Margot and her Grandpa have a plan. "Why do you think she smiles when they make the sandwiches?" When Mama's small boat is seen, talk about how everyone did their part and helped get her safely home. Ask, "What do you think of that? How everyone helped. They just met and now they are doing all this." The conversation will be even more fulfilling as you (together) make grilled cheese sandwiches and tomato soup.