

FIRST FLIGHT

STD-X

SUBJECT : ENGLISH
CHAPTER NUMBER: 5
CHAPTER NAME : THE HUNDRED DRESSES-I
BY EL. BSOR ESTER

CHANGING YOUR TOMORROW

INTRODUCTION TO THE AUTHOR

Born	Eleanor Ruth Rosenfeld May 9, 1906 West Haven, Connecticut
Died	July 15, 1988 (aged 82) Hamden, Connecticut
Occupation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Writer•illustrator•librarian
Education	Pratt Institute School of Information and Library Science
Period	1941–1988
Genre	Children's literature
Notable works	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•<i>Ginger Pye</i>•<i>The Hundred Dresses</i>•The Moffats seriesPinky Pye
Notable awards	Newbery Medal 1952 Caroline Hewins Scholarship for Children's Librarians Pratt Institute Alumni Medal 1968



Eleanor Estes (May 9, 1906 – July 15, 1988) was an American children's author and a children's librarian. Her book, *Ginger Pye*, which she also created illustrations for, won the Newbery Medal. Three of her books were Newbery Honor Winners, and one was awarded the Lewis Carroll Shelf Award. Estes' books were based on her life in small town Connecticut in the early 1900s.

THEME OF THE STORY

- **Poverty**-The theme of poverty underlies much of the conflict in *The Hundred Dresses*. Poverty determines that Wanda and her family live far from school, and the mud Wanda accumulates on her shoes during the long walk subsequently relegates her to the back of the classroom, Wanda's poverty also means she wears the same dress to school every day.
- **Class Difference**-Several details about Wanda's life signal that she and her family belong to a lower social class than most of the students in Room 13.
- **Social Isolation**-Starting with the image of Wanda's empty desk at the back corner of the classroom, and ending with the recollected image of Wanda standing alone against the ivy-covered wall, the theme of social isolation pervades.
- **Bullying**-Though the author does not use the word, the book's most prominent theme is bullying.
- **Remorse**-Remorse drives the plot of *The Hundred Dresses*. Maddie's guilt leads her to obsess over how she should have stood up for Wanda, and eventually sends her on a quest to reconcile with Wanda.



INTRODUCTION

The Hundred Dresses



The lesson “The Hundred Dresses I” is about a girl named Wanda who claims to have one hundred dresses. Her classmates made fun of her because what she claims is in contradiction to the fact that she was always seen wearing the same dress. Her classmates found her name to be “funny” It was because everyone had “easier” names than ‘Wanda Petronski’. Her name was different because she was a Polish immigrant who had come to an American town with her family. She was poor and did not have many friends. She was quiet and was always seen sitting in the corner of the classroom. The truth about the hundred dresses unveiled when she submitted her hundred drawings in a drawing contest. They were the same hundred dresses she used to talk about. All of them were immensely beautiful.

<https://youtu.be/Cy-5zB8PnZw>

VIDEO

WANDA –HER SCHOOL

Wanda Petronski is a **Polish girl** who has shifted to America from Poland with her parents. Wanda possesses a Polish heritage. Wanda is a name funny to pronounce. She belongs to a very poor family and lives in the poor area of town with her brother and father upon Boggs Heights. She is very shy and quiet. She does not talk to anyone and hardly speaks anything in class or laughs. She has no friends. She wears the same faded blue dress every day which is not ironed but clean.

Everybody teases her in class for her dress and shoes every day. She claims of having a hundred dresses and sixty pairs of shoes at home. She is very determined and shows her determination in the drawing competition by displaying a hundred sketches of dresses she claims to own. Each of them is so beautiful, that she wins the competition. Wanda possesses a great capacity for forgiveness and extending friendship to Maddie and Peggy. Everybody in the class claps for her in joy.

Value Points

1. Wanda Petronski usually sat in the last row in Room No. 13.
2. Only 'rough boys' who never scored good marks and made a lot of noise used to sit there.
3. Wanda was a very quiet girl who rarely said anything to anybody.
4. She had no friends and came to school and went home alone.

GIRLS MAKING FUN OF WANDA

Peggy was a rich, pretty American girl. She was intelligent, good at studies and scored good marks. She loved fun and enjoyed teasing Wanda because of her faded blue dress. She kept asking her mockingly how many dresses she had. She took Wanda a dull-headed girl and could never realize how bad Wanda must be feeling about her teasing. She changed her opinion when Wanda won the girl's medal in the drawing competition. She praised wholeheartedly Wanda's drawings. She also visited Boggins Heights and wrote letters when Wanda stopped coming to school.

Value Points

- Peggy was the most popular girl in the class.
- She was pretty, had many dresses and curly hair.
- Wanda was a poor girl who always wore a faded blue dress which was never ironed properly.
- Her name Wanda Petronski was difficult to pronounce and seemed funny to the children.

THE DRAWING COMPETITION

There was drawing competition in the school. In the competition, all boys had to draw a motorboat and all girls had to make sketches of a dress.

The class teacher Miss Mason announced the winners of the contest and Jack Beggles who drew a motorboat won in the boys' category and Wanda Petronski who drew two beautiful dresses won the girl's medal in the drawing competition.



Value Points

- Maddie was Peggy's friend. She didn't like Peggy's questioning of Wanda about her hundred dresses.
- She wished Peggy wouldn't tease and mock Wanda in such an insulting manner.
- Everyone was waiting for the winner of the drawing competition.
- Everybody thought that Peggy would be the winner as she could draw better than anyone in the class.

MADDIE

Maddie belongs to a poor family. She is a very sensitive and emotional girl. She feels very sad when Wanda's father disclosed that he has withdrawn his daughter from the school. She has a very sick feeling in the bottom of her stomach. She curses herself that she failed to stop Peggy from teasing Wanda. She realises that her silence and timidity is as bad as Peggy's act. She resolves that she will speak up when someone tries to make fun of anyone.



Value Points

- Next day, when they entered room no. 13, they found drawings all over the room.
- Miss Mason declared that where only one or two sketches were sent by most of the girls, one girl sent a hundred drawings, all different and beautiful.
- Miss Mason declared that Wanda Petronski was the winner of the girl's medal.
- Unfortunately, Wanda was not present to hear the applause that was due to her.

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