

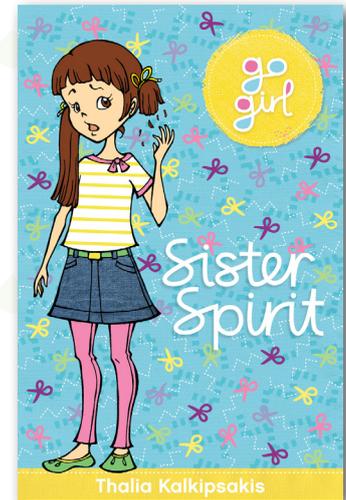
Go Girl: Sister Spirit

By: Thalia Kalkipsakis

Learning Outcomes

Students will:

- Talk about strong first sentences and write a short story with a strong first sentence like the one in the book
- Read a ghost story and design their own spooky ghost
- Talk about funny jokes and mean jokes and come up with examples of each
- Put themselves in the secondary characters shoes and rewrite a scene from her perspective



About the story

Cassie is always called cute, with her beautiful long hair. But she's sick of being cute. She's too old for that. So she lets her big sister Hannah cut her hair. Unfortunately, Hannah doesn't really know how to cut hair, and Cassie ends up with much shorter hair than she'd hoped for. Cassie wishes she was cute again, and wishes that she didn't have a big sister who hated her so much that she would sabotage her hair.

When Cassie finds a secret spot between her room and Hannah's, she decides to play a trick, to pay Hannah back for the terrible haircut. Hannah is afraid of ghosts, so from her hidey spot, Cassie makes as many ghosts sounds she can think of, until shortly Hannah's too afraid to even sleep in her own bed!

Cassie feels bad that she's frightened her sister so badly. The joke has gone too far. But if she confesses now, she'll never find a way to be friends with her sister. Cassie needs to figure out how she can make Hannah happy again, without admitting that she's really the ghost.

Before you read the story

Read the title of the book and look at the picture on the cover. Ask students what they notice about the girl in the picture. What do they think it means? Can they guess what will happen just by the picture and the title? Read the blurb aloud, that should clear things up. Have a discussion with the class about big sisters and practical jokes. Do any of them have any practical jokers in their family that they can share a story about?

Questions

Chapter One

Why does Cassie think that her big sister Hannah hates her? What has Hannah done to make her think this? Do you think she really hates her?

Why did Cassie let Hannah cut her hair?

Chapter Two

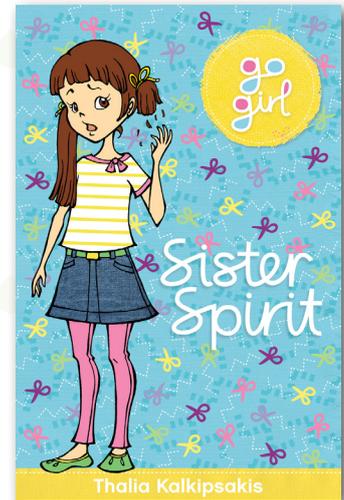
Why did their mum get so mad at Hannah? What did she think Cassie should have done?

What does Hannah say that makes Cassie worried about her new haircut?

What does Hannah yell at Cassie? She sounds angry, but how do you think she really feels?

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Questions

Chapter Three

What does Cassie do when she turns off her light? Where is the light coming from? What does Cassie find when she follows the light? What does Cassie see from her new secret spy spot?

Chapter Four

What do people say about Cassie's hair at school? How does it make her feel? What makes Cassie feel a bit better about her hair?

Chapter Five

Why does Cassie snoop in Hannah's room? What was Hannah reading? How does Cassie hide when she hears Hannah come back?

Chapter Six

Why does Cassie think that Hannah's being rude? How does it make Cassie and Hannah's mum feel when they ignore each other at dinner? How does Cassie decide to trick Hannah?

Chapter Seven

What does Hannah think the noise in her wardrobe is? What did Cassie hope she would think? Cassie's new hair makes her feel older. As she looks around her room, what else does she notice that seems too young? What does she do with it all?

Chapter Eight

How does Cassie try again to trick Hannah? Does it work? How does Cassie slip back into her room? Why doesn't Hannah hear her?

Chapter Nine

Why is Cassie's dad cross about her hair? Who is he cross at? Who do you think he should be cross at? How does Hannah react when Cassie tells her dad that she's not a little girl anymore? Why do you think she reacts like this?

Chapter Ten

How does Cassie take her trick on Hannah even further? What makes Cassie feel bad?

Chapter Eleven

How does Cassie know that Hannah didn't sleep very well? Why doesn't she tell Hannah the truth? Even though Cassie stops her trick, Hannah still seems scared. Why do you think this is? What could Cassie do to make her feel better? What makes Cassie finally decide to tell Hannah the truth? Why is she afraid to tell her?

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Questions

Chapter Twelve

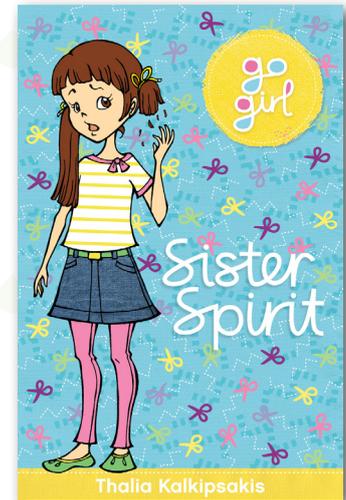
Why did Hannah cut Cassie's hair so short? How does Cassie feel when she realises this?

Hannah explains why she was cross. What does she say?

Chapter Thirteen

Did Cassie go through with her decision to tell Hannah the truth? Why not? Do you think she should have?

How is Cassie and Hannah's relationship different to how it was at the beginning of the book?



Activities

"My big sister Hanna hates me and I know why."

This is a pretty strong statement to start the book with. Talk to the students about writing stories, and about first sentences them. Ask them about the questions that they have about the first line. Ask them to write a short story with a strong first sentence like this one. Things that they should think about are

- Who the character is
- If the sentence leaves some questions for them to answer during the story
- If the sentence introduces any other characters
- If the character makes a statement (like "my big sister Hannah hates me") that could be true or false

Cassie tries to trick Hannah into thinking that there is a ghost in her room, but she can't think of what ghosts do. Find a short ghost story (not too spooky) to read together in class. As you read, make a list of things that ghosts do on the board. Ask the students if they can think of any other things that make them think of ghosts. Set the students a creative task to 'design their ghost'. They can write a short story about it, draw a picture of it, or even make a sculpture. They should think about what kind of ghost it is, who it's haunting, whether it's scary or nice and so on.

Have a discussion in class about the practical jokes that Cassie plays on Hannah. Ask students to talk about how it makes each of the girls feel. Discuss the difference between practical jokes that are funny and practical jokes that hurt people or make them feel bad. Ask students to get together in groups and come up with some examples of jokes that are funny and jokes that are mean.

Ask students to imagine that they are Hannah during one of the scenes in the book. Ask them to rewrite the scene from Hannah's perspective, thinking about how she would be feeling. Ask them to read their scenes out loud, then discuss how they think Cassie would feel if she had known that Hannah was feeling that way.