

## Understand Big Ideas

**Book Title:** *Saturday* (Mora, 2019)

**About the Book:** Every Saturday, Ava and her mother spend the day together. They go to story time at the library, get new hairdos, picnic on the grass, and do something else special. This Saturday, they are planning to see a one-night-only puppet show. Even though everything that could go wrong does, Ava's mom reassures her that it will still be a splendid day. When her mom realizes that she's left the puppet show tickets at home, it's Ava who reminds her mom that the most important thing about Saturdays is that they spend them together.

To find a book like this one, look for the following:

- Characters or situations that are relatable to children
- Characters who are flexible thinkers and able to overcome disappointment or other challenges



## Comprehension Conversation:

### BEFORE READING

#### Notice the Cover Illustration:

- Look closely at the cover. Can you spot the different colors and designs Oge Mora used to create her collage illustrations?
- Think about the title *Saturday*. What do you suppose this book might be about?

#### Front end papers:

- Notice the Saturday wish list next to the calendar. Can you infer from the wish list and calendar what the girl and her mom might do this Saturday? Did you notice that the words "puppet show" are followed by three exclamation marks? What do you those marks tell you?

**Set a Purpose:** Wow! We've already have learned a lot about the book *Saturday*. When we look at the front cover, the end papers, and the title page we get clues to help us better understand the story. Now, I can't wait to find out if the girl and her mom get to see the puppet show and what else they learn along the way.

### DURING READING

- *On SATURDAYS they zipped to the library for weekly storytime.* . . . page: Look! Our prediction matched the author's thinking, they are going to a puppet show. What does *one-night-only* mean?
- *. . . storytime was canceled.* page: Oh no! How would you feel if this happened? How did Ava and her mother react? [They took a deep breath and stayed positive.]

[As you continue reading, notice the repeated lines and phrases. . . Also, invite listeners to continue to consider how Ava and her mom deal with disappointment.]



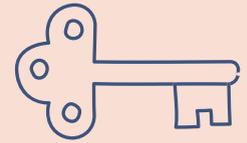
### LEARNING TARGETS:

- I can think about how the main character handles disappointment or other challenges.
- I can understand the big ideas, lessons, or morals of this story.

- *As Ava watched, her mother crumpled.* . . . page: Talk with your friend about how you think her mom is feeling right now. What might Ava do?

**AFTER READING**

- What do you think Ava and her mom learned? What was Oge Mora trying to help us understand?
- Talk to a friend about a time you’ve been disappointed. What did you do to make yourself feel better?



**KEY VOCABULARY:**

- reassured
- ruined
- splendid



**Extend the Experience:**

When things went wrong in the story, what did Ava and her mother do? [took a deep breath, thought positive thoughts] In the end, when Ava and her mother couldn’t go to the puppet show, they performed their own. We can learn a lot from them about being flexible thinkers. Let’s write down some ideas on this chart (see Figure 3.1) to help us when things don’t go as we’ve planned.

- On a sticky note, write the big idea or lesson you learned from this story. Then, when I say, “Go!” stand up and share it with a friend. See if your ideas are the same or different. Talk about the parts of the story that helped you learn that lesson.



Figure 3.1

**Other similar titles:**

**Happy Right Now (Berry, 2019)**

This book promotes a positive outlook on life and offers readers strategies to counteract negative thoughts, situations, or difficulties that stand in the way of happiness. Told from a young girl’s point of view, this book could spark a conversation about the many different ways to think happy.

**Just Like a Mama (Duncan, 2020)**

Carol Olivia Clementine lives with her Mama Rose. Although she wishes she could live with her parents, she appreciates all that Mama Rose does for her. This story celebrates the small moments that strengthen the bond between a caregiver and a child.

**CHILDREN’S LITERATURE CITED:**

Berry, J. (2019). *Happy right now*. Boulder, CO: Sounds True.

Duncan, A. F. (2020). *Just like a mama*. New York, NY: Simon & Schuster.

Mora, O. (2019). *Saturday*. New York, NY: Little Brown.>