



## ***The Talented Clementine***

by Sara Pennypacker

**Recommended Ages:**

6-10

**Summary:** Winner or washout? When it comes to tackling third grade, Clementine is at the top of her game—okay, so maybe not all the time. After her teacher announces that the third and fourth graders will be putting on a talent show, Clementine panics. She doesn't sing or dance or play an instrument. She can't even hop with finesse. And as if she didn't feel bad enough, her perfect best friend, Margaret, has so many talents, she has to alphabetize them to keep them straight. As the night of the big Talent-Palooza draws closer, Clementine is desperate for an act, any act. But the unexpected talent she demonstrates at the show surprises everyone—most of all herself.

**Discussion Questions: Spoiler alert!** Some of the questions contain key elements of the plot. Do not read if you don't want to know what happens!

1. What talents do you have? If you were participating in the Talent-Palooza, what would be your act? Are you more like Clementine or Margaret?
2. Why does Clementine continue to call her little brother vegetable names?
3. What does it mean to be empathetic? How is Clementine empathetic? What are some of the things she's done that shows empathy? How have you been empathetic?
4. Why do you think neither of Clementine's parents like to take her shoe shopping and try to bribe each other into going?
5. What are some of the benefits of being a grown-up? What are the benefits of being a child? Which one do you think you would rather be and why?
6. Why does the audience applaud for Clementine even though she wasn't in the show?
7. Why was her role important? Have you ever done something worthwhile? Did you feel proud?
8. After the show, Clementine's parents take her to dinner at the Ritz to celebrate. "I think this is the luckiest day of my life," she says. What was the luckiest day of your life?

**Activities:**

- Bring clementines for everyone to taste.
- Bring a variety of fruits and vegetables and put each one in a bag. Without looking, have kids feel each one and try to identify it.