

## Orientation

Ensure that you have read about using the plan in the Program Guide.

### Book summary

Read the following summary to the student.

Hannah thinks she's a cat. Lauren's always in a bad mood. Ethan's just plain weird. Now this extraordinary family is about to appear on TV.

### Introduction

Foster interest and activate the student's background knowledge. Be concise – focus on motivating and involving the student. Encourage prediction by using the text and illustrations on the cover of the book. Discuss new vocabulary and remind the student to use the glossary (when applicable). Also remind the student to ask him/herself questions before, during and after the reading.

With the student, look at the pictures in the book. Discuss the meaning of “extraordinary” and encourage them to make predictions about why this family might be extraordinary. Ask the student to identify something extraordinary about their own family. Discuss the things that family members can sometimes do that cause embarrassment.

## Conferencing

### Check how well the student reads

When you are conferencing, the student reads all or part of the book to you. Then:

- praise, pause, and prompt appropriately;
- check for accuracy (by counting mistakes) and fluency;
- check for understanding by using one or more of the following methods:
  - asking the comprehension questions provided and any others that seem necessary;
  - asking the student to retell the story in their own words;
  - asking questions about and discussing aspects of the story, such as the theme, plot, main ideas, sequence and characters;
  - encouraging the student to confirm the predictions they made during the orientation.

### Decide what the student does next

Next recommend that the student:

- practices some more on the same book, with or without the audio;
- completes one of the activities provided that is related to the book;
- practices with another book from the same level; or
- is assessed for promotion to the next level.

## Comprehension questions

1. What special thing happened to the family in this story and why?
2. What did Mom say to her family the morning the TV crew were arriving?
3. Why didn't Mom sing on TV?
4. Why do you think this family is described as extraordinary?
5. What do you think Mom had in mind when she asked her family to behave?

## Answers to the Comprehension questions

1. They were filmed for a TV show because Mom had won a songwriting contest.
2. She told them she wanted the kitchen spotless, the dishes dry, the wash folded, and Blake and Ethan in clean clothes.
3. She's a songwriter and not really a singer.
4. Answers will vary.
5. Answers will vary.

## Supporting English Language Learners

The following are suggestions for optional lessons to take with your English language learners. See the overview chart in the Program Guide for a summary of the text features of this book.

### Purpose

Writing simple sentences about an event or a character in a text

### Introduce the concept and practice

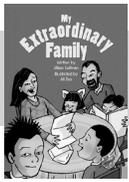
Writing simple sentences about events or characters in a text aids recall of the story and encourages the student to attend closely to the information presented.

When the student is familiar with the text, discuss what makes Blake's family extraordinary, drawing comparisons with the student's family to help them to make connections.

List the people in Blake's family on a chart. Ask the student to scan the text and illustrations to locate information about each character, such as how they act, speak, behave, and look. They should note this information on the chart. Discuss the fact that what people say and how they say it gives information about what they are like.

Next, ask the student to use the information on the chart to write two or three sentences about each character. Encourage them to focus on more than the character's appearance.





**Name:** ..... **Date:** .....

**Introduction:** Hannah thinks she's a cat. Lauren's always in a bad mood. Ethan's just plain weird. Now this extraordinary family is about to appear on TV.

**Errors  
M S**

My mom won a songwriting competition. Our family was invited \_\_\_\_\_ the award ceremony, and \_\_\_\_\_ was really worried. If \_\_\_\_\_ had an extraordinary family \_\_\_\_\_ mine, you'd be worried, \_\_\_\_\_! My three-year-old sister, Hannah, \_\_\_\_\_ she's a cat and \_\_\_\_\_ meowing noises all the \_\_\_\_\_. My older sister, Lauren, \_\_\_\_\_ always grouchy. I never \_\_\_\_\_ what she's going to \_\_\_\_\_. Then there's Ethan, my \_\_\_\_\_. He's just weird! Then Mom \_\_\_\_\_ out that we \_\_\_\_\_ going to be on TV. \_\_\_\_\_ were having dinner, \_\_\_\_\_ the phone rang. Dad \_\_\_\_\_ and passed \_\_\_\_\_ phone to Mom, who had a \_\_\_\_\_ of carrots. Mom managed \_\_\_\_\_ scream and keep her \_\_\_\_\_ shut at the same \_\_\_\_\_. Even Hannah was impressed. \_\_\_\_\_ people from the TV \_\_\_\_\_ said they wanted Mom \_\_\_\_\_ sing her song and to get some pictures of us.

**Accuracy Chart** (Exact word replacement only)

Words Entered	Score	Level
More than 11 correct		Independent
10 or 11 correct		Instructional
Fewer than 10 correct		Frustration

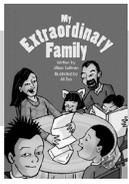
**Errors**

**M** = Meaning (makes sense) \_\_\_\_ **S** = Syntax (sounds right) \_\_\_\_

Heard  Seen  Unseen

Comments: .....





-----

My mom won a songwriting competition. Our family was going to be on TV, and I was worried. If you had an extraordinary family like mine, you'd be worried, too! My little sister thinks she's a cat. My older sister is always grouchy, and my brother is weird!

-----

When the TV crew arrived, they set up their stuff in the living room. Zara, the reporter, smiled at Hannah. "What's your name?" she said. "My name is Fluffy," said Hannah. "Did you know that I'm a cat?" The camera turned to Lauren. "You must be very proud of your mom," said Zara.

-----

Lauren scowled. "She is," said Dad. "And this must be ..." Zara stopped. "Blake," I said. "You must be a big help to your mom, Blake." Then she turned to Mom. "Mrs. Moss," she said. "Would you like to sing your song for us?"

-----

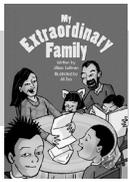
"Well, I'm not really a singer," said Mom. "I'll sing it," said Dad. "She wrote the song for me, so I'll sing it for her." We all froze. "I'll sing it," said Lauren. We all sighed with relief. I went and stood next to Mom. There was no way I was standing anywhere near the rest of my family.

-----

I have to admit that Lauren's voice is the best thing about her. Dad and Ethan did the harmony. Hannah meowed in tune. Mom put her arm around me, and I tried to smile. My extraordinary family was singing a love song on TV. What else could I do?

-----





**Name:** ..... **Date:** .....

Words can be found in these directions:



The letter in each square can only be used in one word.

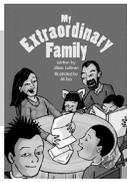
f	t	g	o	i	n	g	o	m	o	u	t	h
a	l	i	f	u	n	n	y	u	w	a	n	t
m	i	s	m	p	h	o	n	e	t	m	y	y
i	s	a	t	e	d	o	o	r	t	h	e	o
l	t	l	i	v	i	n	g	s	h	e	s	u
y	d	w	d	i	s	h	e	s	t	o	c	r
s	d	r	i	g	r	e	a	t	g	s	o	s
m	i	n	y	t	k	n	o	w	w	a	w	e
i	n	a	l	l	h	i	n	w	e	i	l	l
l	n	g	a	v	e	i	t	o	s	d	e	v
e	e	u	r	e	a	d	y	u	f	o	d	e
d	r	s	p	r	o	u	d	l	o	s	m	s
a	r	r	i	v	i	n	g	d	r	o	i	e

**Words to find:**

- |         |          |        |            |        |
|---------|----------|--------|------------|--------|
| all     | arriving | at     | dinner     | dishes |
| door    | dry      | family | for        | funny  |
| gave    | going    | great  | in         | it     |
| know    | list     | living | mouth      | my     |
| out     | phone    | proud  | ready      | said   |
| scowled | she      | smiled | so         | some   |
| the     | time     | to     | us         | want   |
| we      | with     | would  | yourselves |        |

Use the letters that are left to make the word that tells what the children didn't want their mom to do on TV. ....





- ★ Spin the numbered spinner.
- ★ The highest number starts.
- ★ You need to spin the exact number to move onto the END square.

**START**  
Your mom wins a songwriting competition.

1

2

**3** Your family is going to be on TV, and you're worried. Miss a turn.

**19** Ethan comes out wearing a wet T-shirt. Spin again. Go back that number.

20

21

**22** The TV reporter starts asking everyone questions. Go on to 26.

4

18

**END**  
You try to smile. Your extraordinary family is singing a love song on TV!

23

5

**17** You get ready for the TV people to arrive. Spin again. If you spin a 1 or 2, go forward that number.

30

24

6

16

29

**25** The reporter asks your mom to sing her song. Spin again. Go forward that number.

**7** Your little sister, Hannah, thinks she's a cat. Go forward three spaces.

**15** You think your brother, Ethan, is weird! Name two numbers. If you spin one of them, go back to 12.

**28** Lauren says she will sing the song. Her voice is great. Go forward two spaces.

27

26

8

14

13

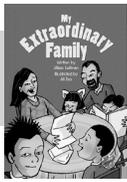
12

**11** Your older sister, Lauren, is always grouchy. Go back to 8.

10

9





**Name:** ..... **Date:** .....

Write an email to a friend, telling him/her about a funny event that happened to your family.

To: .....

From: .....

Subject: .....

Write on the back of this page if you need more space.

**REMEMBER**

Make sure you explain what happened and how you felt about it.

