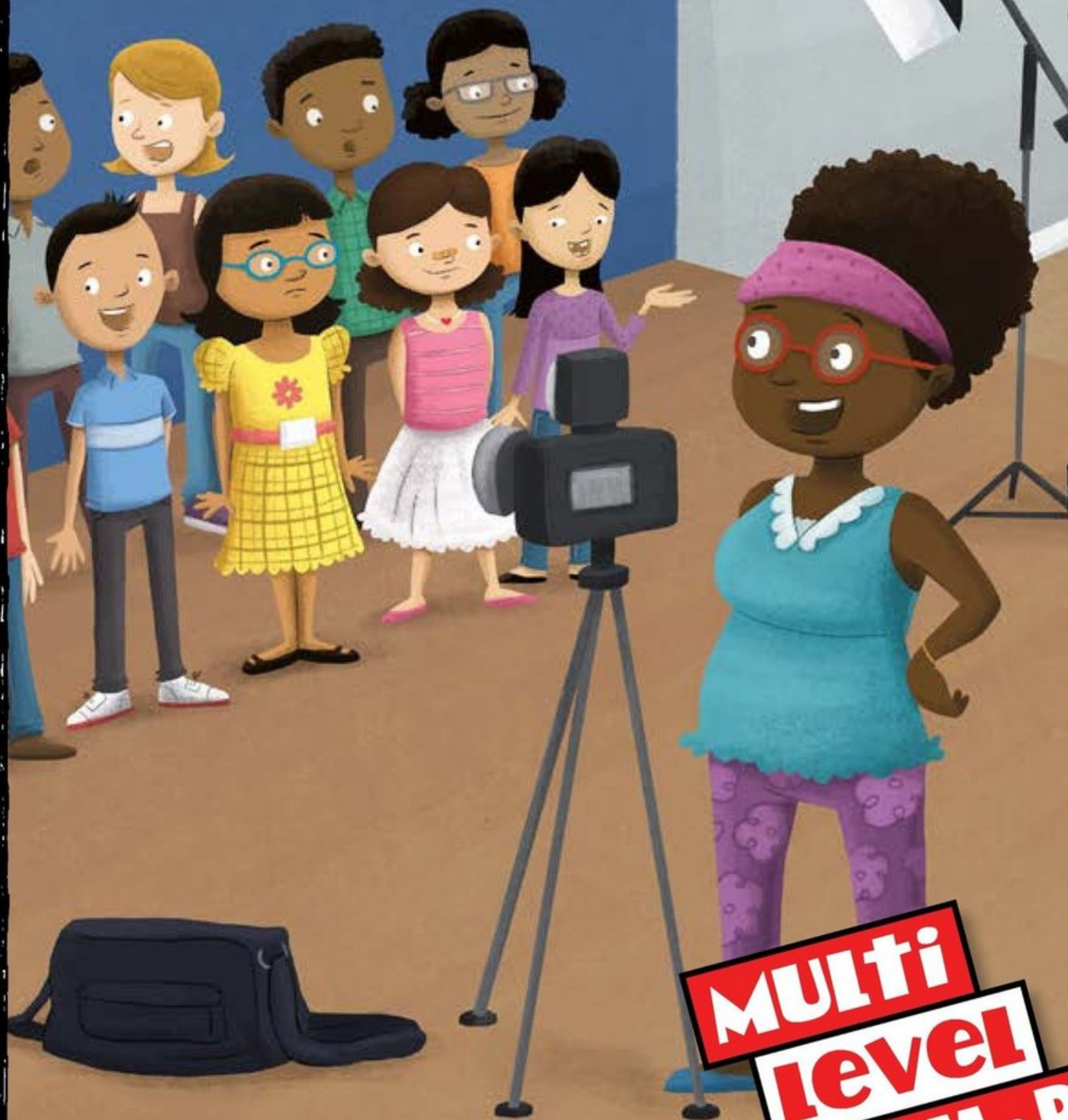


LEVELED BOOK • M

Picture Day



**Multi
level
J•M•P**

Written by Jill Sherman • Illustrated by Marcus Cutler

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Focus Question

What lesson did Poppy learn
on picture day?

Words to Know	
beaded	glanced
burst	photographer
gasped	stain

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Poppy's Picture Prep

Poppy smiled at herself in the mirror. Her new blue dress and her **beaded** necklace looked absolutely perfect.



Poppy's mother was making fruit punch in the kitchen. "Why are you dressed up today?" she asked.

"I'm trying on my dress for class picture day tomorrow," Poppy said. "I want to make sure everything is perfect."

"Well, I think you're already perfect," Poppy's mom said. "Don't drink the punch until you change out of your new dress," her mom warned.

She went to get Poppy's dress shoes from another room.



Her mom didn't understand that picture day was important. The class picture would be in the yearbook *forever*.

Poppy gulped down the punch. "Oh, sweetheart," her mom said, "you spilled your punch!"



Poppy **glanced** down and **gasped**.
She couldn't go to school picture
day like this!

"It'll be all right," her mother said
gently. "I'll wash it tonight. Now,
get changed. We're going to the
eye doctor."



Picture Framed

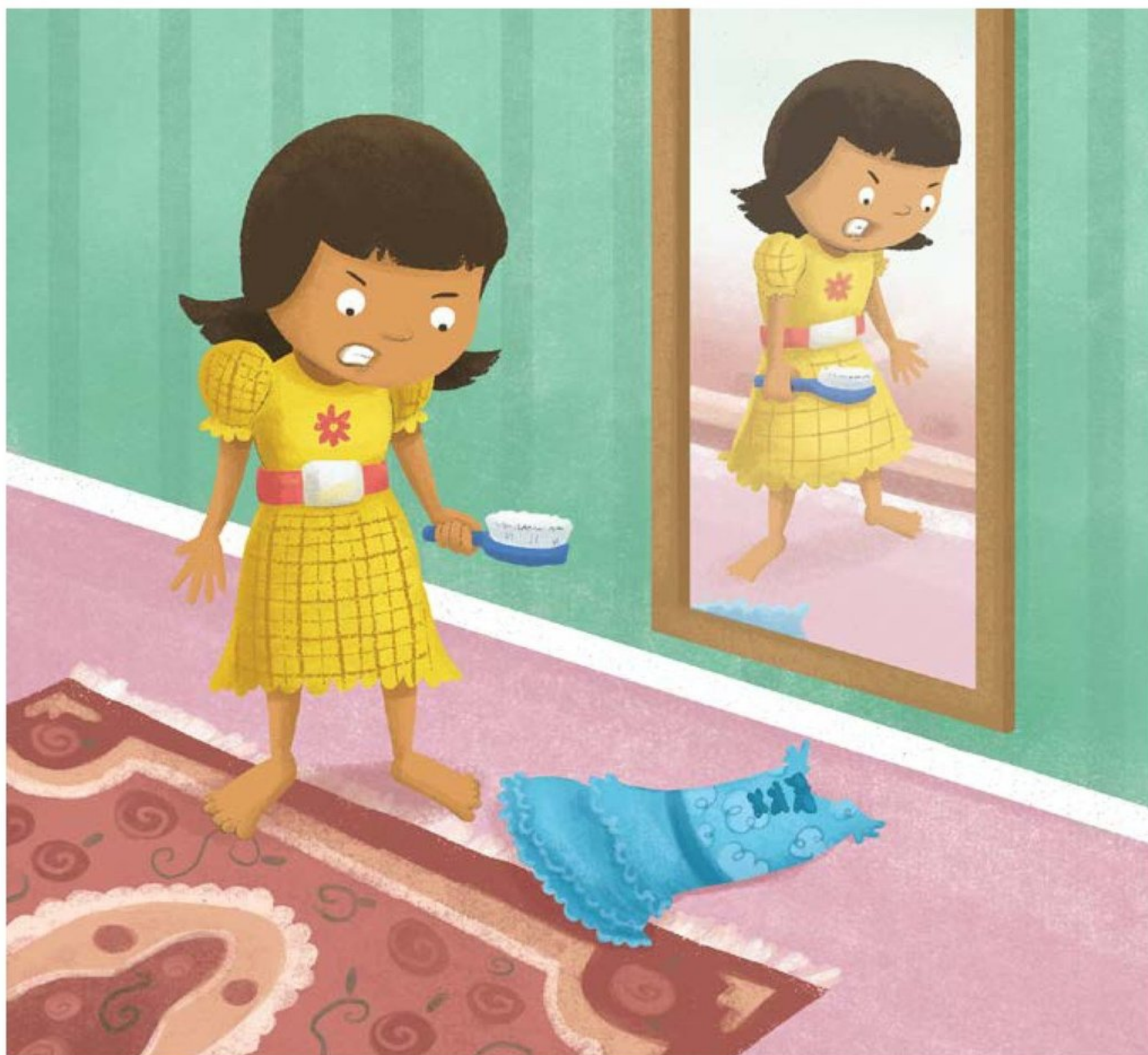
At Dr. Chen's office, Poppy sat on the exam table lost in thought. What if the **stain** didn't come out of her dress? She was worried.

"Why don't you pick out a pair of glasses?" Dr. Chen said. Poppy looked up.

Glasses! Poppy hung her head. She didn't want glasses.



“We’ll have them ready by tomorrow afternoon,” Dr. Chen said kindly. Oh, well. At least she wouldn’t have to wear glasses for the class picture.



The Big Day

The next morning, Poppy grabbed her dress out of the laundry basket. “Oh, no!” she cried. “My dress shrank!” Poppy ran to her closet to find something else to wear.

Finally, she found an old yellow dress. It would have to do.



At least she still had her necklace. She started to put it around her neck, but something was stuck. She gave it a gentle tug. *Snap!* The necklace **burst** apart.

What else could go wrong?

Poppy's mom called up to her. "Hurry up, Poppy! Your glasses are ready early. We have just enough time to pick them up before school."



Picture Perfect

Waiting with the other second graders, Poppy played with her glasses. She hoped her class's turn would never come.

Next to her, Raúl fussed with his hair. "You're lucky your parents didn't make you get a haircut," he complained.

"That's nothing," said Lei. "At least you can still smile for the camera." Lei showed that a few of her teeth were missing.



Poppy looked around at her classmates. Rosa had a bandage taped across her nose. Evan's broken arm was still in a cast.

"I guess we all have something we don't like about our looks," Poppy said. "None of us is perfect."



“Second graders,” the **photographer** called. “You’re up!” The class marched onto the stage. “What a great-looking bunch!” she said, moving Poppy to the front.

Maybe it would be okay if I took my glasses off for the picture, Poppy thought.

Just then, the photographer whispered, “Nice glasses.” Poppy saw her wink from behind her own bright red glasses.



Poppy smiled and looked at her classmates. *They* couldn't take off a bad haircut or hide a broken arm. They were all different, she realized. That's what made them special. She left her glasses on for the picture.

"Cheese!" the class called out.

Poppy smiled her brightest. Picture day hadn't gone the way she had planned. It had gone even better. The flash went off as the photographer snapped the picture.

"Perfect!" the photographer called.

Glossary

beaded (<i>adj.</i>)	having small pieces of stone, glass, or other materials that are strung together (p. 4)
burst (<i>v.</i>)	broke apart suddenly; exploded (p. 11)
gasped (<i>v.</i>)	took in a sudden breath, most often because of surprise or pain (p. 7)
glanced (<i>v.</i>)	looked quickly at something (p. 7)
photographer (<i>n.</i>)	a person who makes photographs, or pictures, with a camera (p. 14)
stain (<i>n.</i>)	a colored or dirty mark that is hard to remove (p. 8)

Picture Day

A Reading A-Z Level M Leveled Book

Word Count: 569

Connections

Writing

Do you like picture day? Write a paragraph to explain your answer.

Math

There are twenty-four students in Poppy's class. Draw at least three different ways they can stand in equal rows for their class picture. Share your work with a partner.



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