

Educator Information and Directions

This PDF provides the materials that accompany the lesson “Perfect Picnic.” This PDF contains activities for students to complete before, during, and after they read the play. Highlighted words within the play indicate vocabulary words that will be referred to in assessment questions.

Student Reading Guide

Before Reading

- ❑ Read some information about today’s play.
- ❑ Start thinking about the topics in the play by answering the questions.

During Reading

- ❑ Read the **Purpose for Reading**.
- ❑ Read the play.
- ❑ Take notes and annotate what you are reading.

After Reading

- ❑ Reflect on what you have read by answering the questions.
- ❑ Complete the **Online Assessment** questions.

Taking Notes and Annotating

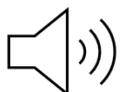
Here are some strategies for annotating and taking notes **in the text itself**:

- **Highlight** or underline important words or words you don’t know.
- **Circle** key concepts and ideas.
- Use abbreviations or symbols. For example:

?	To show confusion or questions
M	To show the mood
★	To show important details
♥	To show the main character’s feelings

Here are some strategies for annotating and taking notes **in the notes section** under the text:

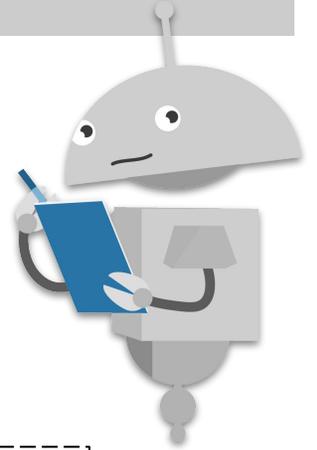
- Summarize key points in your own words.
- Write brief comments and questions.



If you would prefer to listen to the play, click the link to access an audio recording: [Link to Audio Recording of Play](#)

Before Reading

Today's passage is a short play, titled *Perfect Picnic*, that introduces us to two friends and one mom who learn some important life lessons together during a picnic at the park.



Before you read today's play, think about what the idea of "perfection" means to you.

Per·fect (adjective) - being entirely without fault or defect; flawless



Above is the dictionary definition of "perfect," but what does this word really mean to you? Do you think anyone or anything can truly be perfect? Explain your thoughts by writing or drawing below.



Imagine what you would consider to be the "perfect day." What would you do? Where would you be? Who would be there with you? Write or draw below to share your ideas.

During Reading



Purpose for Reading: In this play, an unexpected move to another town may be pulling two friends apart, but the perfect day teaches them what friendship is all about. As you read, think about how the stage directions and dialogue help to develop the setting, plot, and characters.

While you read, remember to annotate and take notes! You can review strategies for annotation on Page 1 of this PDF.

Perfect Picnic

Characters:

Narrator

Lucy - A young girl

Lucy's Mom - Lucy's wise mother

Emma - Lucy's friend



Scene 1: Apartment

(The setting is Lucy's living room. Lucy sits on the sofa, visibly upset, wiping away tears. Lucy's mom approaches.)

Narrator: In a cozy apartment, Lucy's eyes glistened with tears. Her mother, always **attentive**, noticed her daughter's distress.

Lucy's Mom: (Concerned) Lucy, what's troubling you, sweetheart?

Lucy: (Sniffles) Mom, Emma has to move away because her dad got a new job. She's leaving, and I don't know when I'll see her again.

(continued)

During Reading (continued)



Perfect Picnic (continued)

Lucy's Mom: (Understanding) I see why you're so upset. How about we plan something special for Emma's last day here? Something to show her that no matter how far apart you are, your friendship will always be close.

Lucy: (Brightening) That's a great idea, Mom! What can we do?

Lucy's Mom: How about a picnic in the park? We can spend the day together, have fun, and make it a day Emma will cherish.

Lucy: (Excited) Yes, a picnic sounds perfect!



Scene 2: Car Ride

(The scene shifts to Lucy's mom driving Lucy and Emma to the park. Lucy and Emma are in the back seat chatting happily.)

Narrator: In the car, their excitement filled the air as they headed to the park.

Lucy: (Turning to Emma) Emma, I really can't believe you're moving! I'm so glad you're here with us for your last day.

Emma: (Grateful) Me too, Lucy. This means a lot to me. I am still in shock about the move, and this is, for sure, going to cheer me up. Spending the day with you two sounds like the best last day here in Waterview.

(Lucy's mom smiles while looking on from the rearview mirror.)

(continued)



Perfect Picnic (continued)

Scene 3: Picnic at Park

(The scene transitions to the park, where they lay out a picnic blanket. They begin to enjoy their meal, but a series of **mishaps** occur: the wind blows everything over, ants disrupt their picnic, and Lucy looks upset.)



Narrator: At the park, the picnic starts off as Lucy imagined, but the wind blows the picnic blanket, spilling their drinks all over the food. Then, ants come along, causing everyone to jump up from the stinging **nuisances**. This is not what Lucy had in mind for Emma's last day.

Emma: (Noticing Lucy's distress) Lucy, what's wrong?

Lucy: (Frustrated) I wanted everything to be perfect today for you, Emma. But it's all going wrong.

Lucy's Mom: (Pulling Lucy aside) Lucy, listen. Life is like a picnic. Sometimes, the wind blows away our plans, and ants disrupt our expectations. But it's not about everything being perfect; it's about being together and making the most of every moment.

(continued)

During Reading (continued)



Perfect Picnic (continued)

Lucy: (Understanding) I get it, Mom. Thanks. (Turns to Emma) How about we play frisbee, just like old times?

Emma: (Smiling) That sounds perfect, Lucy.

(Lucy and Emma laugh and play frisbee together, while Lucy's mom looks on with a smile.)

Narrator: And so, they spent the day playing, laughing, and enjoying each other's company.

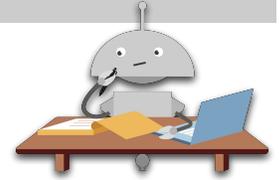
Lucy: (Reflecting) Emma, today may not have been perfect, but being together with you is what truly matters.

Emma: (Grateful) Lucy, you've made this day unforgettable. Together always, no matter where we are.

(They continue playing and laughing as the lights dim.)

Notes

After Reading



Sketch to Stretch



Step 1: Without looking back at the play, sketch or write descriptively in the boxes below to capture the action of each scene.

Step 2: Go back to the play, read closely, and revise your sketches to include more details.

Scene 1	Scene 2	Scene 3



How did your thinking about the play “stretch” after reading it again to add details to your sketches? Is it valuable to read a text multiple times? Why or why not?

After you are done reading and answering these questions, you may want to ask yourself some more questions, like...

- How are the characters developed through the dialogue in this play?
- What is the theme of the play?

You may even want to read the play a second or third time! When you feel ready, go ahead and take your assessment!