

# SIMPLY READ BOOKS

## TEACHER'S GUIDE

### *Bella's Blessings*

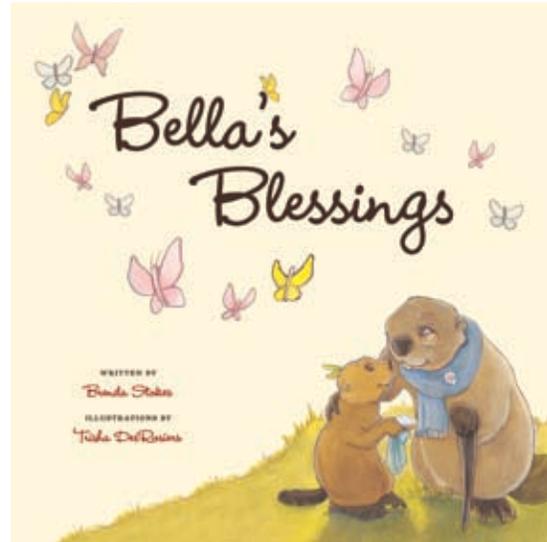
by Brenda Stokes

illustrated by Trisha DesRosiers

ISBN: 9781897476611

Published by Simply Read Books

*"Love, Honesty, Courage. Discover how Bella's blessings help her face the challenges of growing up to be a good little beaver.."*



## The story

When Bella Beaver is born, Grandma Beaver gives her a special gift, a blessing stone. Each year Bella receives a new blessing stone, and each stone guides Bella through the difficult situations she faces as she grows up. Brenda Stokes, the author of this book, was inspired to write this story by her mother, who gave her blessings just like Grandma Beaver gives Bella blessing stones. Brenda's mother passed away before she finished blessing her. Bella's Blessings is Brenda's way of finishing the legacy her mother began.

## About this guide

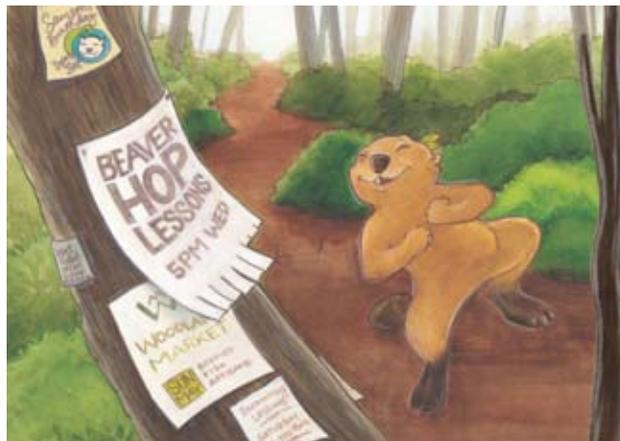
Read the book and use the study questions and activities below to help children explore the blessings in their lives and how thinking about blessings can help one through the most difficult challenges.



## Book talk:

### *Questions for thoughtful discussion*

1. What is a blessing? What can a blessing do for you?
2. Describe some of the blessings you have in your life. They don't have to be "stones" like Bella's blessings. They might just be things people have done for you, or things that people have told you.
3. Who is someone who blesses you in your life? Describe this person.
4. What are the blessings that Bella receives?  
Do you think any of Bella's blessings is more important than another one, or do you think they are all equally important? Why or why not?
5. Do you have anything that has been passed down from your grandparents to you? What is it?
6. What situation do you think Bella struggles the most with? Which one do you think YOU would struggle the most with?
7. Describe a situation in which you have practiced/had each of the blessings: love, dedication, honesty, beauty, kindness, courage?
8. If you were an animal, would you be a beaver? Why or why not? What animal would you choose to be? Why?





## Activities:

*Integrate Bella's Blessings into other subjects.*

Create a blessing stone. Choose a special rock and paint it with one of the blessing words that you think is the most important to you, then decorate it in a special way.

Take one of the things that happens to Bella and act it out with your friends. Choose roles, practice and perform!

Write a story about Benjamin Beaver as he grows up. How is he challenged and how does one of the blessings help him?

## About the Author:

Brenda Stokes is a former school teacher who graduated from the University of Alberta. Brenda currently lives in Spruce Grove, Alberta, with her family and is an instructor at NAIT. Everyday she receives inspiration and blessings from her husband and three children. Brenda was raised in Chetwynd, British Columbia, where she was blessed by her mother.

## About the Illustrator:

Trisha DesRosiers an illustrator/designer who has a strong interest in illustrating and designing for young children's literature, textbooks, exhibits, and Canadian culture. She hermits on the West Coast of British Columbia with her mate and their two black, neurotic cats Zero and One. On days when she is not immersed in her work, you can find her enjoying a good trot in the wilderness, valiantly but vainly attempting to identify and remember all the Latin names for the surrounding flora and fauna.

