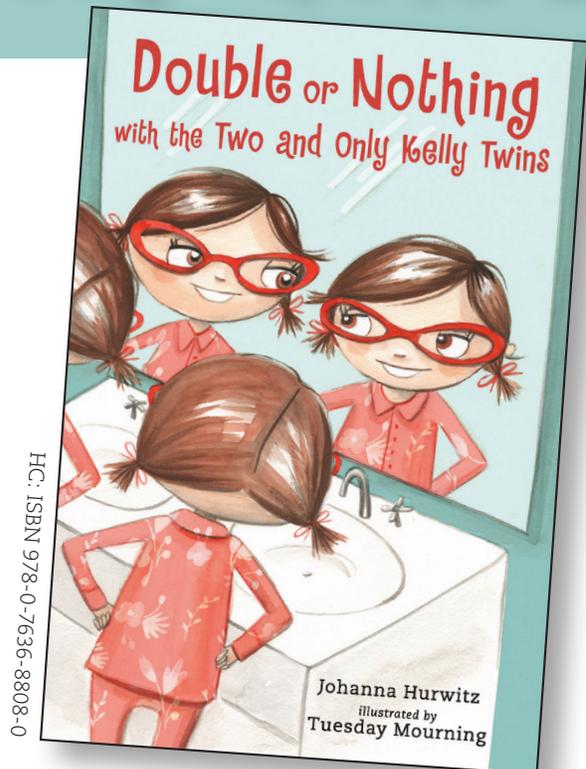
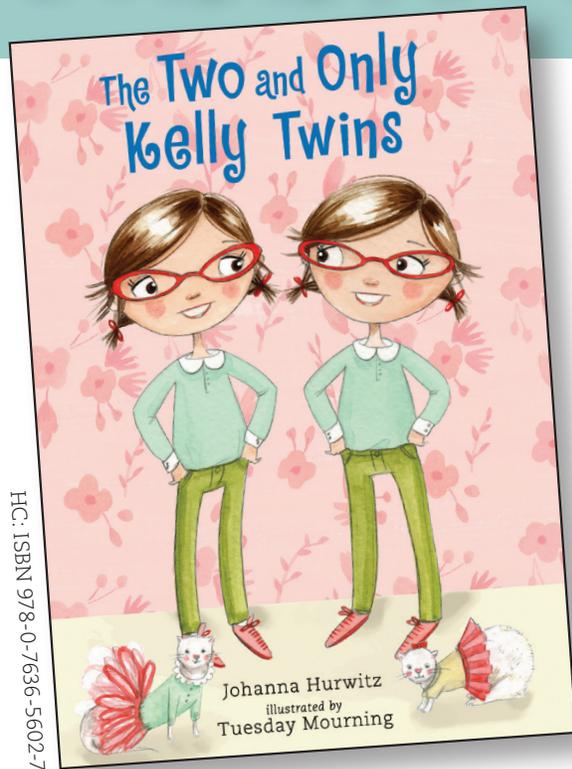


The Two and Only Kelly Twins CURRICULUM GUIDE



By Johanna Hurwitz
Illustrated by Tuesday Mourning

ARLENE AND ILENE KELLY ARE TWINS—identical twins, to be exact—and they love being part of a pair. Twins always have a best friend to play with and do homework with. Arlene and Ilene love sharing a room, sharing friends, and wearing matching outfits. They even have identical pet ferrets!

Being a twin isn't always easy, though. When Arlene gets sick and has to go to the hospital, the twins find out what it's like to be one instead of two. And when their friends Monty and Joey point out a difference between the sisters, the girls start to wonder how they can truly be identical. But whether they're together or apart or alike or different, the Kelly twins are truly two of a kind.

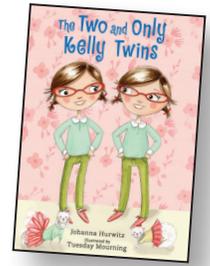
Johanna Hurwitz's sweet episodic chapter books are just right for young readers as they explore the wonders—and puzzles—of being an identical twin.

“Arlene’s and Ilene’s spunk and charm make them ideal bedfellows for characters like Sara Pennypacker’s Clementine and Annie Barrows’ Ivy and Bean.” —BOOKLIST

johannahurwitz.com candlewick.com

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

All discussion questions are aligned with **CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.1.1**;
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.2.1; **CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.3.1**



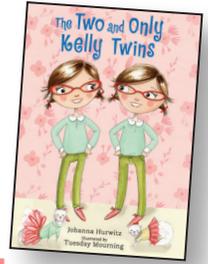
-  Arlene and Ilene are twins. In what ways are they identical? What is the one thing that makes them different from one another?
-  Even though the twins agree on most things and they love to wear matching clothes, the twins don't agree on which animal makes the best pet. Which pet does each girl want? How does their father solve the pet problem?
-  Who are Frankie and Fannie? How do the twins take care of them?
-  When one of the pets is missing, what happens to Ilene when she finally locates her pet?
-  Who is Marlene and why do you think Ilene talked about her when she met two of the Best triplets on the first day of school?
-  Ilene and Arlene feel cornered when the triplets ask the twins for a play date. The twins are afraid that the triplets will find out the truth about Marlene. When Monty and Joey are surprised by what Ilene has told the Best girls, Ilene says she's just playing a joke on the triplets. In your opinion, is Ilene joking or lying? Give reasons for your opinion.
-  How do the Best girls discover the truth about Marlene when they go to the twins' house for the play date? How do the Best girls react when Ilene admits that she didn't tell the truth?
-  The twins are big fans of celebrating holidays. One of their favorite holidays is Halloween. What happened when the twins, dressed as identical witches, went trick-or-treating?
-  The twins' mother, Mrs. Kelly, thinks that Arlene's stomachache is the result of eating too much Halloween candy, but it turns out that Arlene is really sick. What is wrong with Arlene? What happens to Arlene when she is at the hospital?
-  What do Arlene and Ilene discover about being apart from one another while Arlene is in the hospital and Ilene has to go to school without her twin?



Sequencing the Story

Read the list of story events from *The Two and Only Kelly Twins* listed below. Decide the order in which they occurred in the book. Number the story events from 1 to 8 in the correct order.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.1.1; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.2.1; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.3.1



_____ Arlene goes to the hospital to have her appendix removed.

_____ Arlene and Ilene get ferrets as pets.

_____ Ilene tells two of the Best triplets that she has a sister named Marlene.

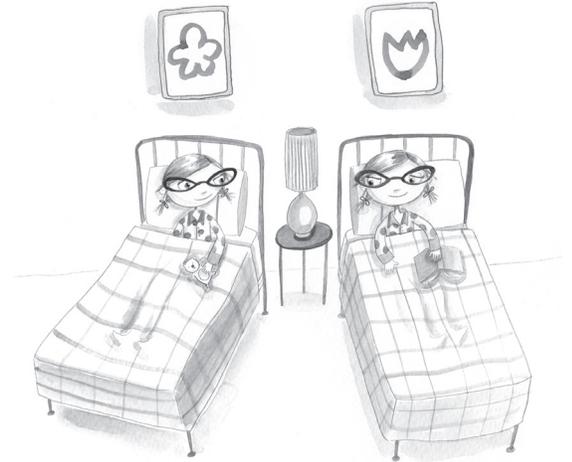
_____ The twins go trick-or-treating dressed as witches.

_____ Arlene and Ilene have two of the Best triplets over for a play date.

_____ Ilene is bitten by her pet ferret when she tried to pull the ferret from under the clothes hamper in the bathroom.

_____ The twins' friend Monty comes over with cookies after Arlene gets out of the hospital.

_____ The twins and their friends bob for apples at the twins' house after they go trick-or-treating.



ANSWERS: 7, 1, 3, 5, 4, 2, 8, 6

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

All discussion questions are aligned with **CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.1.1**;
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.2.1; **CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.3.1**



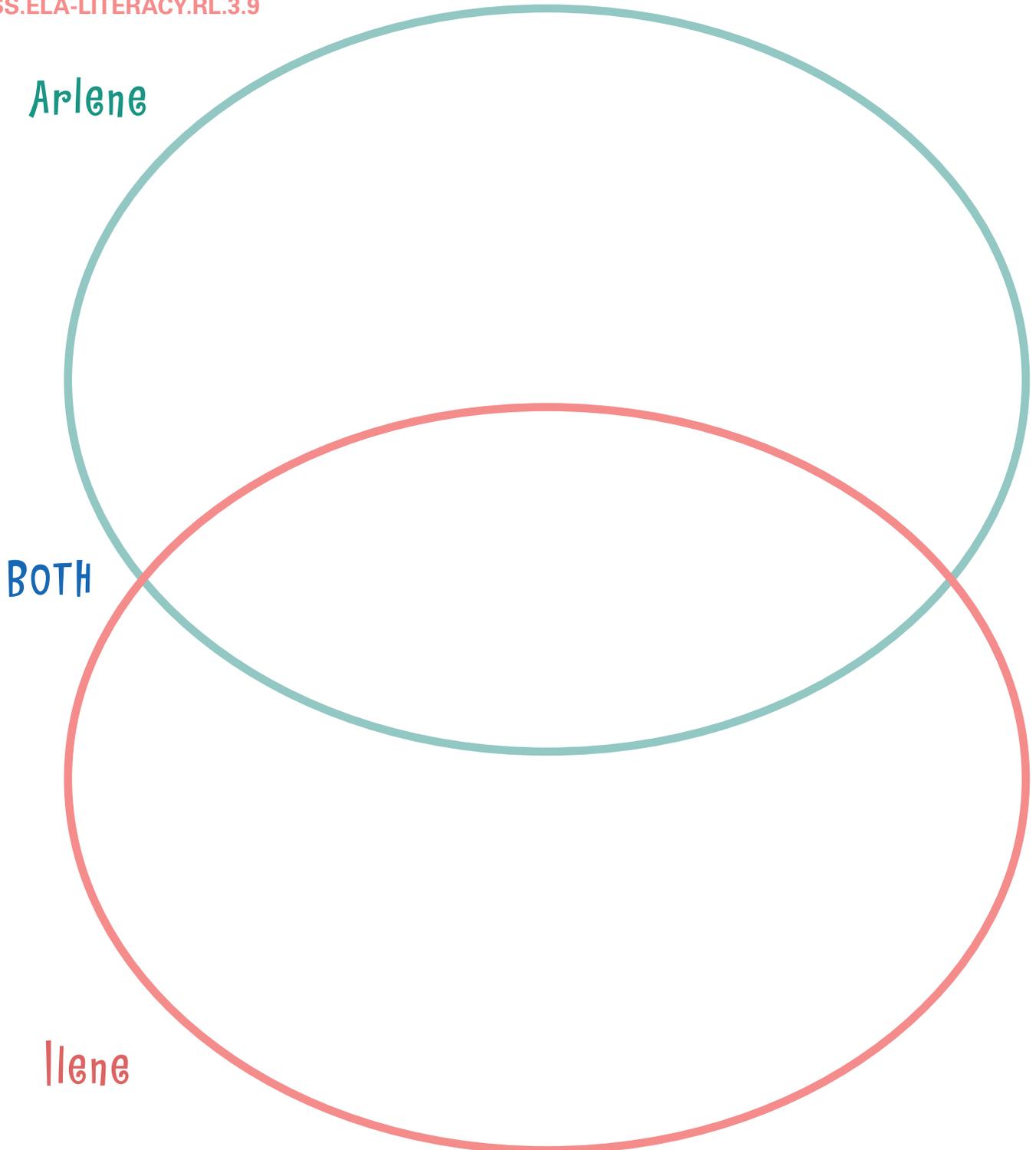
- 🍷 Arlene and Ilene are identical twins. One morning the twins wake up late and have to rush to meet their friends Joey and Monty to walk to school. Joey keeps telling the girls that they look different from one another. What turns out to be the difference between Arlene and Ilene?
- 🍷 The twins' friends Claudia and Roberta suggest that they have a sleepover. Arlene and Ilene are so excited, but are surprised to find out that Roberta and Claudia had a different plan for how the sleepover would go. How was Claudia and Roberta's idea different from the twins' idea?
- 🍷 What convinced Ilene that it would be okay to be separated from Arlene and to sleep over at Roberta's house?
- 🍷 Both of the twins' teachers are teaching their classes about poetry. How are the teachers sharing poetry differently with their students? What type of poetry homework is assigned to Ilene and Arlene?
- 🍷 Mrs. Kelly takes the twins to the library to help Arlene complete her poetry homework. She finds a poem that she loves, but Ilene doesn't think the poem fits the assignment. What does Arlene tell her teacher about the poem she selected?
- 🍷 What is the "hair situation" that both of the twins face? How does Mrs. Kelly try to solve the problem?
- 🍷 When Mrs. Kelly takes her daughters for haircuts, Ilene makes a big decision about her hairstyle. How does Ilene's hairstyle decision affect Arlene?
- 🍷 Even though Arlene and Ilene are identical and prefer to dress exactly the same, what different idea starts to form in the girls' minds after the twins get their new hairstyles?



The discussion questions and activities in this guide were created by Leigh Courtney, Ph.D. She teaches in the Global Education program at a public elementary school in San Diego, California. She holds both master's and doctoral degrees in education, with an emphasis on curriculum and instruction.

Alike And Different

Even though Arlene and Ilene seem identical in every way, there are some things that make the twins different. Reread chapter 1 of *Double or Nothing with the Two and Only Kelly Twins* and locate examples of what makes the twins alike and what makes each girl different from the other. Use this information to complete the Venn diagram. **CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.1.9;**
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.3.9



Twinning = Winning!

In *The Two and Only Kelly Twins* and in *Double or Nothing with the Two and Only Kelly Twins*, Arlene and Ilene celebrate what it means to be a twin. Find examples from the stories that show how the twins like being identical. List them below. Use the information from the list to help you write a persuasive paragraph about the advantages of being a twin.



CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.1.1; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.2.1; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.3.1

Some advantages of being a twin, from Arlene and Ilene’s point of view:

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

Use these examples from the story to write a persuasive paragraph about why it’s great to be a twin.



Meet the Author



JOHANNA HURWITZ is the award-winning author of 74 books for young readers. She was practically destined to become a writer. Her parents met in a bookstore, but Ms. Hurwitz's first love was the library—she began working as a page in the New York Public Library when she was sixteen years old. She went on to get a master's degree in Library Science and worked as a children's librarian for many years. In addition to her two books

about Arlene and Ilene Kelly, *The Two and Only Kelly Twins* and *Double or Nothing with the Two and Only Kelly Twins*, Ms. Hurwitz has written four books about Arlene and Ilene's friend and neighbor Monty Morris. Ms. Hurwitz divides her time between homes in Great Neck, New York, and Wilmington, Vermont.

