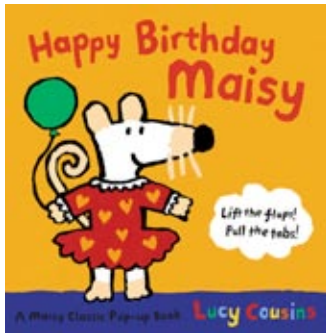




It's more fun with Maisy!

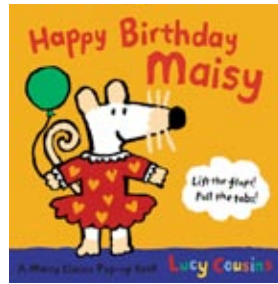
Lesson Plan: *Happy Birthday, Maisy* by Lucy Cousins

Featured title



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Maisy's having a birthday party and there are lots of fun things to do. Lift the flaps, pull the tabs and watch her open her presents, play party games and blow out the candles on her cake.

Development stage

Early Years / Foundation Stage: 0-5 years

Background

All the Maisy stories deal with the important experiences in young children's lives in an immediate and reassuring way. They provide lots of familiar and instantly recognizable situations that children will want to talk about. This one is no exception: it's Maisy's birthday – and she's having a party. Children will need little encouragement to join in as they read along with the text, pulling the tabs and opening the cards in turn, before joining in singing the "Happy Birthday" song together.

Learning objectives

Reading this memorable book in class will help children to:

- learn about the fun that can be had with books
- pay attention to words on the page and understand what they describe
- learn about birthdays, why they are important and how they are celebrated.



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Activities

Reading aloud and rereading

Put laminated photographs of all the children onto sticks; this will create a useful resource for both children and adults to use when playing the following activities.

Happy Birthday song

- Make a large A3-sized song sheet for children to “read” as they sing along with the song, but leave the name space blank. This can then be easily filled with the birthday child’s name or photograph. Provide an A4 photocopy of the sheet for the birthday child to illustrate and take home.
- Sing “Happy Birthday” in as many of the languages spoken within the classroom as is possible. Children can choose which language they would like to have it sung in when it is their birthday. See www.babelfish.com for help with this.

Story props/Magnet board

- Use laminated photocopies of characters and objects from the book, either on sticks or with magnetic strips attached to the back, for children to use in retelling the story or creating a new one.

Memory game

- As a group, make up a list of Maisy’s presents with individual children helping to remember the presents and adding another present to the end. For example:

On Saturday it was Maisy’s birthday and she got a trumpet.

On Saturday it was Maisy’s birthday and she got a trumpet and some crayons.

On Saturday it was Maisy’s birthday and she got a trumpet, some crayons and a watch.

- Use pictures or real objects if it helps to jog children’s memories.

Writing/graphics table

- Resource the writing/graphics area for card-making, providing coloured card and a variety of card-making materials including envelopes.
- Write a card to send to Maisy together in shared writing with an adult acting as scribe for the children’s ideas. Put it into an envelope to “post” on the way home.



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- Talk with the children about who they might send birthday cards to. What other reasons might they have to send cards? (E.g. “to say I love you, because you are my friend”).
- Write a “reply from Maisy” for the children to find. Would they like to write a note back to Maisy?

“Guess what’s in the present” game

- Different mystery objects can be wrapped up and passed round a small group of children.
- Each child can make one comment in turn, describing the sound, shape, size, texture, weight, smell... When everyone has had a turn, they can each say what they think it is.
- Children can take it in turns to unwrap the present to reveal the contents. Alternatively, the game can be played like pass the parcel, with music.

More birthday books

Put together a collection of other birthday books:

Bear’s Birthday by Allan Ahlberg, illustrated by Colin McNaughton

Birthday Happy, Contrary Mary by Anita Jeram

It’s My Birthday by Helen Oxenbury

Jack’s Little Party by Bob Graham

Curious George and the Birthday Surprise by Margret and H.A. Rey

The Birthday Box by Leslie Patricelli

Maisy flap book

- Make a flap book together of Maisy’s treasure hunt or perhaps another day in Maisy’s life, for example a trip to the park/shops/seaside/farm.
- Talk about the different things Maisy would do, how the story could begin and end, and decide what the flaps would be.
- Record this on a flip chart as a shared story map. Children can choose which part of the story they would like to illustrate, make the flaps, and write the captions.
- These can be assembled to create a group book to read aloud and enjoy together.



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Activities

Book-based games

Pairs

- The aim of this game is to collect pairs of characters. The one who collects the most, wins.
- Make a double set of cards featuring Maisy and all her friends (you can use the illustrations on their own or add their names underneath).
- Place all the cards face down. Children take it in turns to turn two over, one at a time, trying to remember where its partner is.

Word bingo

- Create a base-card with six sections (see page 5 and 6), each with a different picture to match a phrase from the book.
- Each phrase can be written on a card and on each side of a large dice (alternatively each card could have a dot 1-6 and then any dice could be used).
- Children take it in turns to throw the dice and place the corresponding card under the matching picture on their base-card until everyone has completed it. They can read out their cards as they pick them up and everyone can read them through together at the end of the game.



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Activities

Word bingo





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Activities

Word bingo

Lots of cards come
in the mail.

They play party games
and hide-and-seek.

Maisy puts on her
party clothes.

It's time for Maisy's
birthday feast.

Maisy's friends come
with presents.

Maisy blows out the
candles on her cake.



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Board game

- Create a track board game, for example a numbered “path” through the events of the party in a circular route from Maisy’s front door.
- Each player takes a counter representing a character in the book (children could help make these) and, throwing a dice, moves along the track.
- Children pick up a card for each odd or even number they land on.
- Cards are arranged in two separate piles, in two different colours, and each has a phrase from the book for players to read aloud as they pick them up.

Birthday chart

- Create a birthday bar chart with months of the year.
- Encourage children to add their names in the appropriate month, perhaps in date order. Invite them to read the chart.
- Which month has the most birthdays?
- Who can tell us when it’s X’s birthday?



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Activities

Circle time

Friend of the week poster

- Birthdays are a good opportunity to bring friends together.
- Focussing on friendship, ask children to think about what makes a friend.
- They could make a “Maisy’s friend of the week poster” and each child can say something positive about the friend of the week which can be added to the poster next to a child’s name.
- The poster could be taken home at the end of the week.

Making friends

- Friendships can be problematic too.
- Use Maisy to talk “in role” about how it feels when someone says they’re not your friend and won’t play with you, ask the children to share their experiences and feelings. Think together about what would help.

Visit www.maisyfun.com for more Maisy games and activities.