

Number 21

INTRODUCE THE STORY

Bring in a red toy truck. Tell the students that the story is about such a truck. Ask them what they think it might be about, and if they have any experiences or stories to share about such a truck. Then draw the number 21 on the board, and tell them that this number is very important to the story. Ask them to guess how it might be so. Then show them a bowl or glass with water in it, and say that this is also very important. Again, ask them to guess how it might all be connected. Then read the story.

EXAMINE THE STORY

1. Nancy hears the truck honk when she's standing in the street, and she isn't startled, although everyone around her is. Why is this so?
2. Which parts of the truck do each of the children explore?
3. Why do you think the pictures of the truck are so big? What feeling about the truck is being created?
4. What are some of the things the kids do in the water-filled truck?
5. What happens when Dad lets the water out of the truck? What does he have to do about this?
6. Look at the second picture in the book, of the three children looking up at the truck. Nancy, Laurie and Duncan were really blonde. Why do you think the illustrator, Brian Deines, painted them as brown-haired?
7. At the end of the story, Nancy says that everything about Number 21 is fun for her and her brother and sister. List at least three things that the children found fun about the truck.
8. How would you describe the artist's style in this book? Is it smooth? Realistic or cartoonish? What kinds of colors does he use? Give as much detail as possible.

EXTEND THE STORY

1. Look at Nancy on the front cover of the book. What is she thinking? Is she thinking about Number 14, or what will happen with this truck, or where her Dad has been working, or... Tell her story.
2. Now look at Duncan on the back cover. What is he thinking about?
3. Look at Nancy Hundal's other books to find out which other one is about the same family as this one. What is the other book called? What happens in this story?
4. Do you think the children might have the chance to swim in the back of the truck again? What new things might they try this time? Would Dad let the water out the same way?
5. If you could meet Nancy in the story, what three questions would you ask her?

LINKS TO OTHER SUBJECTS

ART

Draw your own version of the children swimming in the back of the truck. Do they have other friends with them? Water toys? Can they see under the water, or is it too dark? Think it all through, then start your drawing.

Examine Brian Deines' painting style. Notice how he uses paint, so that you can see bits of separate color, instead of smoothing it all into one shade. He also shows that most objects are not just one color, but many, depending on how the light hits them and what they're made of. Paint your own picture, following Brian's style.

SCIENCE

Research dump trucks: different types, what they're used for, their history.

RELATED BOOKS

About trucks:

Truck by Donald Crews (Greenwillow, 1980)

About great things

Dads do on a hot summer's day:

Lemonade Parade by Ben Brooks (Kids Can Press, 1991)

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C N N N E E S W T J P S L E R
Q H V A N I H K W C R A D I O
P B O I N E L N E U J K U R X
T F G C E C E R N T N R D U W
N N J L O S Y O T R M P Z A A
E A U V O L Z H Y U F B T L V
V L C H F E A U O C W E I U C
N A J N Y S R T N K R W J A I
M U A P U W L X E F S K G Q H
V Y X Q G D G F A E N A L C F
S Y X C H Z Y L S L N G H S A
L E V A R G L Z N A N L S Z P
Z X W C J J S W K P R P O V P
U B F P U F H Q W Q K O U O Y
J F L S I U H N J V I H K T P

CHOCOLATE
GRAVEL
LANE
POOL
TWENTYONE

DUNCAN
HORN
LAURIE
RADIO
WATERFALL

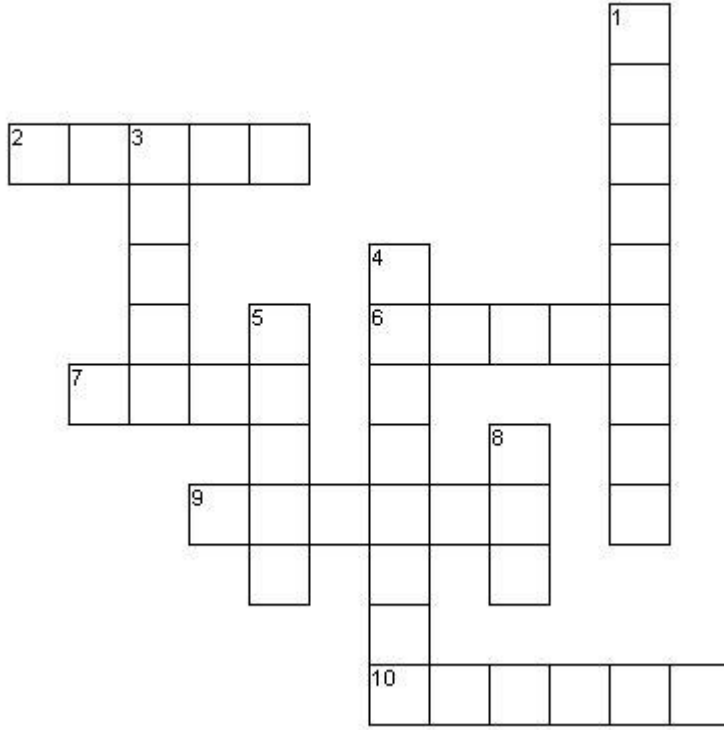
ENGINE
HOSE
NANCY
TRUCK
WHEEL

Word Search Solution

Number 21

C	N	N	N	E	E	S	W	T	J	P	S	L	E	R
Q	H	V	A	N	I	H	K	W	C	R	A	D	I	O
P	B	Q	I	N	E	L	N	E	U	J	K	U	R	X
T	F	G	C	E	C	E	R	N	T	N	R	D	U	W
N	N	J	L	Q	S	Y	O	T	R	M	P	Z	A	A
E	A	U	V	O	L	Z	H	Y	U	F	B	T	L	V
V	L	C	H	F	E	A	U	O	C	W	E	I	U	C
N	A	J	N	Y	S	R	T	N	K	R	W	J	A	I
M	U	A	P	U	W	L	X	E	F	S	K	G	Q	H
V	Y	X	Q	G	D	G	F	A	E	N	A	L	C	F
S	Y	X	C	H	Z	Y	L	S	L	N	G	H	S	A
L	E	V	A	R	G	L	Z	N	A	N	L	S	Z	P
Z	X	W	C	J	J	S	W	K	P	R	P	Q	V	P
U	B	F	P	U	F	H	Q	W	Q	K	O	U	O	Y
J	F	L	S	I	U	H	N	J	V	I	H	K	T	P

Number 21



ACROSS

2. This is how many chocolate bars Laurie finds.
6. Nancy's dad is a _____ driver.
7. Number 21 becomes a wonderful _____.
9. Nancy's sister is named _____.
10. Dumping the load of water washes away all the _____.

DOWN

1. It's so hot, and even the _____ is broken.
3. Nancy loves to play with this part of the truck.
4. Duncan grabs the _____ wheel.
5. Number 21 is very _____ inside, not like Number 14.
8. The color of Number 21.

Crossword Puzzle Solution

