Interactive Read Aloud Lesson Plan

Title: Nigel and the Moon	**Author:** Antwan Eady

Book Introduction (Include genre and area of focus)	<u>Nigel and the Moon</u> is a book about a little boy, Nigel, who has big dreams about what he wants to be when he grows up. However, he fears that people will make fun of his dreams. The genre of this book is Realistic Fiction. That means that it is made-up, but that the characters and setting reflect the real world and real people and are believable. Today, as we enjoy the book, we are going to focus on how readers can build empathy for characters. To empathize means to share the feelings of another person or character. This is important because it helps us to better understand the character and have compassion for him or her.
Teacher Think Aloud #1	**Stopping Point:** "…and he flips again, but a dancer like him cannot be found." **Skill (What):** Readers empathize with characters **Strategy (How):** By asking: If I were in the character's shoes, how would I be feeling right now? I am going to stop here. <u>Watch me</u> as I practice empathizing with characters by asking: If I were in the characters shoes, how would I be feeling right now? Hmmm, I think I would feel confused and sad because I couldn't find anyone who was a dancer in the career book. I might feel like there was something wrong with me that I even *wanted* to be a dancer. *Did you notice* how I empathized with the character by asking: If I were in the character's shoes, how would I be feeling right now?
Student Practice #1	**Stopping Point:** "Yet he quivers at the thought." **Teacher Set-Up:** Now, it is your turn to practice empathizing with Nigel by asking: If I were in the character's shoes, how would I be feeling right now? Turn-and-talk with your partner!

Teacher Think Aloud #2	**Stopping Point:** "He can't bring himself to whisper the word: *superhero*." **Skill (What):** Readers empathize with characters **Strategy (How):** By asking: If I were in the character's shoes, what would I feel worried about? I am going to stop here. <u>Watch me </u>as I practice empathizing with the character by asking: If I were in the character's shoes, what would I feel worried about? I think I would be worried that people would make fun of me and laugh at my aspiration of wanting to be a superhero. I would worry that they would think I was strange for not wanting to be a "normal" job like a doctor or teacher. I would worry they might think I am babyish for even still believing in superheroes. <u>Did you notice</u> how I just empathized with Nigel by asking: If I were in the character's shoes, what would I feel worried about? This helped me to better understand his character.
Student Practice #2	**Stopping Point:** "Will my class laugh if I tell them?" **Teacher Set-Up:** Now it is your turn to practice empathizing with the Nigel by asking: If I were in the character's shoes, what would I feel worried about? Turn-and-talk with your partner!
Big Questions (related back to the skills practiced)	● Empathy is the ability to feel what another person feels. Which point in the story were you able to experience the most empathy for Nigel? In other words, during which parts were you able to feel what he was feeling--nervous, embarrassed, or proud? ● If you were Nigel's friend, what would you have told him when he slumped down in his chair and felt ashamed to tell the class what he really wanted to be? ● What was the theme, or author's message, of the story?