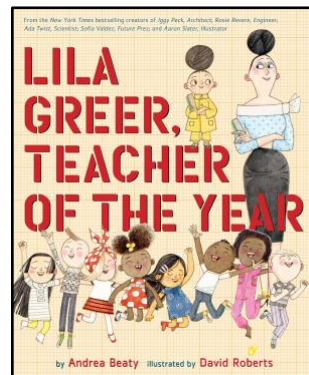


## Lila Greer Teacher of the Year

By Andrea Beaty



### Activity Guide Created by:

Izabel Kohls

### Book Summary

Lila Greer has “what ifs” about sleeping through the night. She finally becomes comfortable, but then her life gets flipped upside down. She moves and must attend a new school. In her new school she's very antisocial. She feels scared and hesitant to make new friends. Her teacher, Mrs. Kern, invites her to clean her chalkboard and when other students decide to help her, she makes friends while building her confidence. When she grows up she becomes a confident, kind, loving teacher.

### Read Aloud Questions

What is a bungalow?

How do you think Mrs. Kern made Lila feel when she spoke to her gently?

How did Mrs. Kern show kindness?

What made Lila feel uncomfortable?

Why did Lila speak up?

What do you think might have happened if Lila never would've stayed to clean the board?

How do you think Lila's newfound confidence helped her in school?

How did Lila's confidence and positive self-talk lead to success in her life?

What did Lila do as a teacher that remind you of Mrs. Kern?

### Book Activity

#### Materials:

Wooden Jenga blocks with negative and positive self-talk phrases on them (use one set for every 3-4 students), chalkboard handout and coloring materials (markers, crayons, colored pencils, etc.).

Label the Jenga blocks before you begin the lesson:

Positive Labels	Negative Labels
I can't do this yet. I am good at this. I have a positive attitude. I am confident. I am brave. I am smart. I see a mistake as a chance to learn. I can learn from feedback.	I make excuses for my mistakes. I'm not good at this I am scared. This is boring. This is too hard. I complain about everything. I do not like to be challenged. I give up when things get hard.

## Directions:

1. After you read **Lila Greer Teacher of the Year**, ask your students to share a situation when they did not feel confident.
2. Using the Jenga blocks labeled with positive and negative matching phrases, ask the students to play Jenga by pulling the blocks from the stack to match the positive and negative phrases.
1. Next, read the phrases from the blocks and have the students build two towers, one that's positive and one that's negative.
2. After they have stacked all the blocks, ask them to knock over the negative tower.
3. Review positive phrases from the blocks and the book with the students. Brainstorm any other phrases that students might use for positive self-talk.
4. Pass out the chalkboard handout and colorful markers.
5. Ask the students to write their favorite positive phrase(s) on their chalkboard handout. They can decorate and color, as they would like.
6. Ask the students to share their chalkboard in small groups. Share what they learned about building their confidence and having a positive self-esteem. Suggest that they hang their poster somewhere they can see it each day as a reminder.



## Additional Resources

- [Lila Greer Teacher of the Year Activities](#)
- [Positive Self-Talk Activities](#)
- [Self-Care: Self-Talk for Elementary School](#)

## Meet the Author



**Izabel Kohls** is a 7th grader who attends Augusta Middle School. She participates in various sports and is currently playing softball for the Andover Aces. She enjoys hanging out with her friends and playing Mario Kart with her siblings. She has 3 brothers and 2 dogs. She has goals of attending college at the University of Tennessee where she hopes to play softball and golf.

# My Positive Self-Talk

