

TITLE: Delayed Delivery

BOOK: Chicken Soup for the Pet Lover's Soul

PAGE: 3

TIME TO READ: 7 minutes

TOPICS: **On Love**
Tough Stuff—death
Christmas spirit

AGE LEVEL: Grades 3 and up

SYNOPSIS: A recent widow receives a surprise puppy for Christmas—it is a gift planned by her husband three weeks before his death.

NOTES TO TEACHER:

You may wish to have a box of tissues nearby for this story!

Death is a “heavy” topic for any age to discuss. However, this story may help even the youngest students to deal with grief because of the hopeful ending.

This story lends itself to three totally different directions in its questions and activities:

1. What do we *value* in life—and how to live each day to the fullest.
2. Dealing with the death of someone we love and the sadness and/or loneliness that follows.
3. Recognizing and facing our own mortality.

It is probably best to choose *one* direction that best suits your students. Adjust the questions and activities from any of the plans to suit age-levels.

Refer to book appendix for several student worksheets dealing with feelings.

Chicken Soup for the Pet Lover's Soul **Delayed Delivery**

ELEMENTARY:

PRE-QUESTIONS:

Name the three most important things in your world right now.

Have you ever felt sad or lonely?

- When?
- Why?

Read Story

POST – QUESTIONS:

Why was Stella so sad?

What was the surprise in the box for Stella?

Who gave her that gift?

What are your three most important things *now* after hearing the story? Has anything *changed*?

When you are feeling lonely, what do you do?

STUDENT ACTIVITIES:

Plan a holiday party for “seniors” at a nearby assisted living facility.

Invite them to your classroom, or take the party to them.

NOTE TO TEACHERS:

Point out to your students that while making the elderly a small gift is wonderful, the greatest gift will be the *time* you spend with them.