

# Annika's Secret Wish

Book by Beverly Lewis

Unit study by Oney Jones

## SOCIAL STUDIES

### Geography: Sweden

This story is set in Sweden. Sweden is a European country that is northeast of France and borders Norway and Finland. Find Sweden on the map.

Basic Information about Sweden:

Official Name: Kingdom of Sweden

Capital: Stockholm

Area: 173,860 square miles

Official Language: Swedish

Currency: Swedish krona

Find some library books about Sweden and learn even more!

### Culture—Traditions

Discuss the word *tradition* with your student. What are some of the Christmas Eve traditions in your home? There is a Christmas tradition in Sweden. A Christmas Eve dinner is served with traditional Swedish foods completed by rice pudding for dessert. There is but one whole almond dropped into the rice pudding before serving and fun is in the anticipation of getting the bowl of pudding with the almond. Read page 32 of *Annika's Secret Wish* with your student; it tells of more Swedish traditions.

### Relationships: Brother/Sister

Annika loves her brother very much and even wonders what Jesus would do if He got the almond! She chooses to switch bowls with her brother so that he may have

the joy of finding the almond. She does it “secretly” so as not to call attention to herself and maybe so that her brother doesn’t feel he is given special treatment or favors because of his disability. What can your student do this year to show his siblings that he loves them? Help him think of some special things he can do (maybe even secretly!).

### **Bible Study: Faith**

While it’s fun to have games like finding the almond (which means a wish will come true), that’s not how it really works. On page 10 Papa’s teachings are remembered by Annika: “Papa says it is God who grants our wishes. But it’s fun to dream, “she whispered. You may want to talk to your student about bringing our wishes before God. You may want to read, explain, and memorize John 14:14. Make sure your student understands that God grants our pleas based on His will; He knows what we really need.

## **LANGUAGE ARTS**

### **Story-telling**

Writing stories is a great way to keep family traditions and history alive through many generations. Let your student write a story about an incident that happened at your family Christmas this year.

### **Open-ended stories**

This story ends without us being told by the author what Davy’s wish is or if he received his wish. How does not knowing make you feel? Sometimes it’s fun to decide what happens next. What do YOU think happened? Leaving the story open-ended allows you, the reader, to use your imagination. Have your student narrate the "rest of the story" for you. Then, re-read the story with the new ending. What does your student think? Can he think of another possible ending?

### **Punctuation: The Ellipsis**

[ . . . ] (three periods, evenly spaced in a sentence) This mark at the end of this story is called an *ellipsis*. An ellipsis is used to indicate a pause in the flow of a story. Find the ellipsis in the story with your student.

## **Vocabulary**

Mantel- a shelf above a fireplace

Gleaming- a glow

Scurried- to move quickly

Tapers - small or very slender candles

Hearth- the stone in front of a fireplace

Truffles- chocolate confections made with chopped nuts, rolled into balls and covered with cocoa powder

Enormous - huge

Glee - delight or pleasure

Scarcely - barely; hardly

Concealing - To keep from being seen or found

Swift - quick or prompt to act

Triumphantly - having achieved victory or success

## **ART**

Notice the use of yellow shades (from very light to dark) to show lighting and shadows in the pictures. You may also want to point out the smaller pictures on new pages that highlighted something from the text of the story.

The medium used is watercolor. Maybe your student would like to get out his watercolors and create Christmas cards.

## **MATH**

### **Probability**

Only one almond was put into the big pot of rice pudding! What are the chances (probability) in your house that your bowl would be

the one that would get a ladle full of rice pudding and the one, lonely almond?

Think about this: What would be so fun about having 50 almonds in the pot of rice pudding? It wouldn't be a game then would it? When there is only one of

something, it tends to make that one thing more valuable. Just like you! There is only ONE you...and YOU are valuable, wanted, and loved!

### **Calendars**

Christmas is always on December 25 every year. Look at this year's calendar. What day of the week is Christmas on this year? What date is Christmas Eve? How many days are there in the month of December? What month of the year is December?

### **SCIENCE**

#### **Anatomy**

Sometimes a person's body doesn't work like it's supposed to work. Little Davy had to use a crutch to help him walk. We don't know why...it doesn't say but sometimes doctors who are scientists can figure out what's not working; why it's not working and do surgery or give medicines to fix what doesn't work. Sometimes they can't. God has His reasons for allowing some people's bodies to be fixed while others' are not.

#### **Experiment**

Why does a sleigh not sink in the snow?

We did a mashed potato experiment to show how when weight is dispersed evenly over a larger area it's less likely to sink than if the weight was concentrated in one spot. We made a large batch of very thick mashed potatoes (with instant potato flakes) and used action figures to "walk" over the "snow". When the figures walked (with our help) the weight caused the feet of the figures to make foot prints in the snow. Then, we tried it again with Popsicle sticks taped to the feet of the action figures and had them "walk" that way too. Since the weight was spread out over the sticks the prints didn't go as deep.

## Just for Fun

### Make Swedish Rice Pudding!

You need:

1 cup rice

2 cups water

1 cinnamon stick

3 eggs, beaten

4 cups milk

1/2 cup sugar

1 teaspoon vanilla

2 tablespoons butter

1 almond (whole)

Directions:

Cook rice in water with cinnamon stick until done. Remove cinnamon stick and let cool slightly. Preheat oven to 325°F. Mix rice with beaten eggs, milk, sugar and vanilla. Pour into baking dish, drizzle melted butter over top. Bake 1 hour in 325°F oven. Ten minutes before baking is done, insert almond. Serve warm.

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