

**4th Grade Curriculum Guide Book Summary**

**Book Title: *Rising Above the Storm Clouds***

**Author:** Dr. Robert D. Enright

**Main characters:** Franklin and Bess McLumen and their children, Freddy B and Ezmerelda

**Executive summary:** A father teaches his children how it feels to forgive.

**Detailed summary:** Franklin McLumen led a tidy and organized life. One day the peace in his house was disturbed by an argument between his two children, Freddy B and Ezmerelda. The children’s fight caused Franklin to spill his tea and cake. Instead of getting angry, Franklin calmly asked the children to sit and “collect” themselves.

Then Mr. McLumen asked a question, “What is it like to forgive?” The children were still angry at each other. Forgiveness was the last thing on their minds. So Mr. McLumen told them what forgiveness feels like. Forgiveness is like a gift you give yourself. It is like an airplane flying above the storm clouds into the clear sunny sky making your heart feel “quieter and sunnier.”

Mr. McLumen told his children that forgiveness is like two butterflies sharing a flower together. And like a butterfly changing from a cocoon to a beautiful butterfly, your thoughts about the person who hurt you can change.   
  
   
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The children were still not ready to see each other as a beautiful butterfly, so Mr. McLumen continued. He told the children that forgiveness is like a mother polar bear who has caught her baby bear sneaking cookies before dinner. She disciplines him, but she still loves him and gives him a big bear hug. Forgiveness is loving someone even though they did something you did not like.   
Forgiveness is a cat and dog sharing the warm spot by the fire after chasing each other around all day. It is a porcupine and a mole sharing the same hole through the cold winter. Forgiveness means being kind and respecting others.

To forgive is to be generous even to those who may not have been kind to us. Mr. McLumen tells of a grumpy guppy who lost his lunch money and receives a gift of money from the Grouper that he argued with the day before. When we are generous and forgive, we also feel good in our hearts.

After fighting with a friend, you may feel gray and gloomy. Forgiveness is like lying in a meadow together happily with that friend, remembering when you flew in a plane above the storm clouds. You discover your heart is happy and sunny like the meadow.

Mr. McLumen was going to give more examples of how forgiveness makes you feel, but Freddy B and Ezmerelda had already forgiven each other. They were ready to run and play in the meadow together!