

Bookfolio for **Dicey's Song**

Author: [Cynthia Voight](#)

First Publication Date: 1983

Publisher: Atheneum

ISBN: 0689309449

Recommended for: [Grades 5-8](#)

Classification: Fiction

Genre: [Realistic Fiction](#)

Story Summary: Dicey and her family return to school, and each makes the adjustments to a new place. Maybeth still has trouble reading, but her music teacher wants her to have piano lessons, and he becomes a friend of the family. Sammy does not get into trouble as usual, but it is costing him much effort. James is withdrawn and bored with school until he works to figure out a way to teach Maybeth to read. Dicey makes a job for herself, although she is underage, to bring in extra money to supplement the welfare Grams is forced to get. She deals with the routine of work at school, finally allowing Mina, a black girl who is as bright as Dicey, to become her friend. She has to deal with her maturing body and with a boy who likes her. To make time for herself, Dicey works on repairing a sailboat which becomes a symbol of her emerging identity. Grams takes over much of the responsibility of the family and begins to teach Dicey how to reach out to others, as she is learning to reach out herself. She treats Dicey as an adult, especially when Dicey's mother is dying. The two go to Boston to the hospital and stay until Dicey's mother dies. They return to continue their life as a family, with Grams opening the locked attic of the past to share with her adopted children.

Read-aloud Recommendation: Chapter 2, pages 23-37

The skills for each activity are identified by the following abbreviations:

R=Reading, W=Writing, S=Speaking, L=Listening, D=Drawing

Dicey's Song - Independent Activities	Skills
1. Conflicts (Understanding conflicts)	S , W
2. Another Voight Novel (Giving a book talk)	R , S
3. Similes (Writing similes)	W
4. Mr. Lingerle (Assuming the role of a story character)	S
5. Open Hands Theme (Making a poster)	D
6. Mina Sees Dicey (Presenting a character sketch)	S , W
Dicey's Song - Group Activities	Skills
1. Book Sets (Comparing books)	W
2. Windows and Mirrors (Discussing realistic fiction)	S
3. Advice to Gram (Presenting Readers Theatre)	S
4. Cartoon Storyboard (Creating a cartoon)	D , W
5. Peer Tutoring (Teaching another student)	S , W
6. "Let's Talk About..." (Discussing the story)	L , S

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