BIRTHDAY BOX by Jane Yolen

1. Give author’s name and some details about her background.
2. What was the inspiration behind this story?
3. Before you read. What do you think the title of the story means? Why do you think so?
4. In the first paragraph of the story, what are some clues you can use to predict what the title of the story means.
5. **Birthdays:** 
   1. What are some ways our culture celebrates birthdays?
   2. What is another way birthdays are celebrated in a different culture? Explain.
6. **Character:** After you have read the first page and first column on pg. 176 describe what have you learned about Katie so far?
7. What seems to be Katie’s favorite thing to do? Use examples that support your reasoning.
8. **SETTING**: Sometimes the setting lets you know more about a character. PG> 176. Discuss the significance of the breathing machine.
9. **DESCRIPTION:** Notice the way the author describes Katie’s mother. How do these images relate to her (the mother) situation?
10. **SYMBOL:** Pg177 What do you think the reason(s) could be about *why* would Katie’s mother gave her an empty box?
11. **Explain**: What does “it’s you” mean? Keep in mind the title of the story and that Katie’s mother is very caring and thoughtful. Therefore, a gift of beautiful empty box must be for a reason.