

WASHINGTON CHILDREN'S CHOICE PICTURE BOOK AWARD

2023 ACTIVITY PACKET



Aaligator!

Written By: Judith Henderson

Illustrated By: Andrea Stegmaier

Synopsis: While on a walk through the forest, a boy encounters an alligator which is stuck, hungry, and lonely. The boy befriends the alligator, and the town is not happy about it.

Suggested Reading Date: National Reptile Awareness Day is Oct. 21st. The focus of that day is conservation efforts. World Inclusion Day is another option, which is Oct. 10th.

Activity Descriptions: This delightful fable can be understood for what it is, a charming and witty folk tale or, on another level, for the message it conveys regarding inclusivity and accepting/welcoming the “other” in our communities. Also, the positive traits of the boy demonstrating kindness, empathy, and problem-solving are noteworthy as well.

- Watch the video listed below, called, *The Number 1 Way to Teach Kids About Inclusion*.
 - Ask: can they share an example of when they’ve been an includer? Can they think of a time when a friend of theirs has been an includer? Explain that when we include others, not just people who are like us, we make everyone feel happy and accepted.
- This book begs for a type of discussion format for the lesson. After reading the book, consider passing an alligator or other reptilian stuffy you might have around the class. When you have the stuffy, it’s your turn to pass or share.
 - Start a discussion by asking students: What does it mean to 'include' others? Was the alligator included in the boy’s community? How did he feel when he was not included? Who included him/who did not? Did anyone change their mind, over time, about including the alligator?
 - Ask: Can you give an example of a time you have been included in a game or activity? How does it feel when you are included? Explain that someone who includes others is called an *includer*. Ask students who in the story was the includer and who was not an includer?
- Alternately, you could choose to pair a nonfiction book about alligators with this book and highlight what makes *Aaalligator* a fiction book (Alligators can’t really walk around on two legs or promise to not to eat us, etc.). Elementary students are always fascinated by facts about reptiles. You can use a Venn diagram to highlight the similarities and differences.

Related Websites:

- Author Website through Kids Can Press: <https://www.kidscanpress.com/creators/judith-henderson/918>
- Illustrator Website: <https://www.andreastegmaier.com/>
- A kid authored and inspired video, *The Number 1 Way to Teach Kids About Inclusion*: <https://youtu.be/2FCwiVrJdHE>

Text to Text Connections:

If You Ever Want to Bring an Alligator to School, Don't by Elise Parsley, *We are All Under One Wide Sky* by Deborah Wiles, *Last Stop on Market Street* by Matt de la Peña and Christian Robinson, *All Are Welcome* by Alexandra Penfold

Created By: Sherry Loniewski

Amara and the Bats

Written and Illustrated By: Emma Reynolds

Synopsis: Amara loves bats, so when she learns there are none near her new home due to habitat loss, she overcomes her feelings of helplessness and inspires her community to take action. Includes facts about bats and bat houses.

Suggested Reading Date: October (Halloween & Bat Appreciation Month); Bat Appreciation Day, April 17th, 2023; Earth Day, April 15, 2023

Activity Descriptions:

- Discuss why bats need protection – how do people feel about bats?
- Create a “Before and After” chart to discuss attitudes and feelings about bats before and then after learning about bats. Did the book change their minds?
- Learn about Emma Reynolds’ campaign, #KidLit4Climate that works to amplify the voices of young environmental activists. (Could lead to a discuss hashtags and/or how kids can work for causes that they care about.)
- Create a “Bat Facts” Fortune Teller:
https://batslive.pwnet.org/fun_at_your_fingertips_update.pdf
- Create “Flying” bats – students can work in teams to work on SEL and 21st Century Skills: https://batslive.pwnet.org/Dreamweaver/pdf/flap_for_bats.pdf

Related Websites:

- Author/Illustrator Website: <https://emmareynoldsillustration.com/amaraandthebats>
- Read and Draw with Emma Reynolds, author of Amara and the Bats!
<https://youtu.be/Hqti9bhmds> -
- Guide to Using Environmental Fiction and Nonfiction in the Classroom from Simon and Schuster:
https://d28hgpri8am2if.cloudfront.net/tagged_assets/6556686/9781534469013_cg_guid_e%20to%20using%20environmental%20fiction%20and%20nonfiction%20in%20the%20classroom.pdf
- National Wildlife Foundation: Night Friends – Bats of the Americas (resources/activities for older students) https://batslive.pwnet.org/pdf/Night_Friends.pdf
- 3 Fun Facts About Bats! | SciShow Kids: <https://youtu.be/2Mii45v85YY>
- How Do Bats See with Sound? | SciShow Kids: <https://youtu.be/fSIFU8OTwrg>
- Project Learning Tree - Amara and the Bats (Links to videos of young environmental activists) <https://www.plt.org/recommended-reading/amara-and-the-bats/>
- Bat Conservation International <https://www.batcon.org/>

Text to Text Connections:

If you like this book, you might also want to use these books about bats:

- *The Bat* by Elise Gravel
- *Bat Citizens: Defending the Ninjas of the Night* by Rob Laidlaw
- *Bats* by Gail Gibbons

- *Bats at the Library* by Brian Lies
- *I Am Bat* by Morag Hood
- *A Place for Bats* by Melissa Stewart, illustrated by Higgins Bond
- *Rufus: The Bat Who Loved Colors* by Tomi Ungerer
- *Stellaluna* by Janell Cannon

Ecology:

- *Galápagos Girl* by Marsha Diane Arnold, illustrated by Angela Dominguez
- *A Garden to Save the Birds* by Wendy McClure, illustrated by Beatriz Mayumi
- *Fur, Feather, Fin: All of Us Are Kin* by Diane Lang, illustrated by Steph Laberis
- *If Bees Disappeared* by Lily Williams
- *If You Take Away the Otter* by Susannah Buhrman-Deever, illustrated by Matthew Trueman
- *Zonia's Rain Forest* by Juana Martinez-Neal

Activists:

- *Greta and the Giants: Inspired by Greta Thunberg's Stand to Save the World* by Zoë Tucker, illustrated by Zoe Persico
- *Our House Is on Fire: Greta Thunberg's Call to Save the Planet* by Jeanette Winter
- *Right Now! Real Kids Speaking Up for Change* by Miranda Paul, illustrated by Bea Jackson
- *Stand Up! Speak Up! A Story Inspired by the Climate Change Revolution* by Andrew Joyner

Animal Misconceptions:

- *Disgusting Creatures* series by Elise Gravel
- *I'm Trying to Love Spiders* by Bethany Barton

Created By: Erin Quarterman

Butterflies Are Pretty Gross

Written By: Rosemary Mosco

Illustrated By: Jacob Souva

Synopsis: Butterflies are beautiful and quiet and gentle and sparkly . . . but that's not the whole truth. Butterflies can be GROSS. And one butterfly in particular is here to let everyone know! Talking directly to the reader, a monarch butterfly reveals how its kind is so much more than what we think.

Suggested Reading Date: National Butterfly Day is March 14th or pair this nicely with a Science unit if it is part of your student's curriculum.

Activity Descriptions:

- In the book the author lists some gross things that butterflies do. Find out if other creatures out there have a series of gross habits utilizing books, websites, and databases from your school or public library.
- Take a pole to see what is the worst gross thing that a butterfly can do.
- Premade Activities from Tundra Time: <https://tundrabooks.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/Butterflies-Are-Pretty-Gross-TundraTime.pdf>
- Design and decorate your library with butterflies despite their new reputation. Free downloads: <https://onelittleproject.com/butterfly-template/>
- Make an origami butterfly: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cZdO2e8K29o>
- How to draw a butterfly: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NLWNOafqfh0>
- [How does a caterpillar become a butterfly:](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V5RSpMQQOpw) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V5RSpMQQOpw>
- [Paper butterfly craft:](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aMmqBznjV8o) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aMmqBznjV8o>

Related Websites:

- Author's Website: <https://rosemarymosco.com/>
- Illustrator's Website: <http://www.twofishillustration.com/my-work>

Text to Text Connections:

Out of Nowhere by Chris Naylor-Ballesteros

The Very Impatient Caterpillar by Ross Burach

The Little Butterfly that Could by Ross Burach

The Very Hungry Caterpillar by Eric Carle

Velma Gratch & the Way Cool Butterfly by Alan Madison

Created By: Stephanie Wilson

Claude: The True Story of a White Alligator

Written By: Emma Bland Smith

Illustrated By: Jennifer M. Potter

Synopsis: The story of Claude, an albino alligator, and how he eventually comes to make friends and find his place in the world.

Suggested Reading Date:

National Reptile Awareness Day (October 21st)

World Wildlife Day (March 3rd)

Also fits the PBIS themes of Perseverance (January) and Courage (April)

Activity Descriptions:

- Have a direct discussion with the students on what albinism is, and how it relates to eyesight. A suggested link is below, and there's a resource at the back of the book.
- The alligator that shares Claude's habitat gets relocated when she snaps at Claude. Ask the students: Is there a time that you've ever become frustrated with someone and lashed out? What could you have done instead?
- The book mentions how Claude's coloring would affect his ability to be fully camouflaged in the swamp. What are other examples of animal camouflage students can think of?
- At the end of the story it mentions Claude being about ten feet long now; have students lay out blocks, paperclips, or some other measuring tool to get to ten feet.

Related Websites:

- What Makes an Animal Albino, from the Iowa Department of Natural Resources: <https://www.iowadnr.gov/About-DNR/DNR-News-Releases/ArticleID/2711/What-makes-an-animal-albino>
- YouTube video of Claude: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bX4MKMKXIdA>
- National Geographic on Albino Animals: <https://www.nationalgeographic.com/animals/article/albino-animals>
- Emma Bland Smith's author page: <https://emmabsmith.com/>
- Jennifer Potter's illustrator page: <https://www.jenniferpotter.com/>

Text to Text Connections:

Rescue and Jessica, a Life-Changing Friendship by Jessica Kensky

It's OK to Be a Unicorn! by Jason Tharp

Sargent Reckless by Patricia McCormick

Created By: Ryan Grant

Don't Hug Doug

Written By: Carrie Finison

Illustrated By: Daniel Wiseman

Synopsis: Doug prefers not to be hugged, but there are a variety of other ways his loved ones can show him affection.

Suggested Reading Date: Jan. 21- National Hugging Day or Apr. 21- National High Five Day

Activity Descriptions:

- Create a choice board with different ways that you can show people you care for them. This can include actions like hugs, high fives, knuckle bumps, etc. Then, ask different people you know how they would like to be shown that they are cared for by you.
- How many different ways can you high five? Use the page in the book "Doug is a master of high fives." for inspiration and practice using them:
https://drive.google.com/file/d/1wMaBxS_oSUEfF7Mgrx2fj2F9QacPAVMK/view
- Make a Big Hug card: <http://www.busybeekidscrafts.com/Big-Hug-Card.html> or Bear Hug card: <https://www.ourkidthings.com/BEAR-HUG-CARD/>
- Make a paper High Five: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1B8uBbY5pmRHGYC-yBfLC_I3rTcRq4wIi/view
- Discuss with students the issues of consent & teach students to ask before they hug.

Related Websites:

- Author's Website: <https://www.carriefinison.com/>
- Illustrator's Website: <http://www.danieldraws.com/>
- Soaring 20's Blog: <https://www.soaring20spb.com/blog/2021/1/24/book-birthday-dont-hug-doug?msclkid=e9240be5ba9f11ecaee8173711219da5>
- Author's Preview & Discussion Video: <https://youtu.be/b26L21k5yh8>
- First Grade Bloomability Blog: <https://www.firstgradebloomabilities.com/2021/03/dont-hug-doug.html?msclkid=e9242262ba9f11ecad1578e9d8fd6828>
- TeachingBooks: <https://www.teachingbooks.net/tb.cgi?tid=74899&msclkid=220a9acebaa311ec97ec9a3e321068c9>
- Discussion with Author about not labeling Doug: <https://www.anovelmind.com/post/carrie-finison-don-t-hug-doug-and-don-t-label-him-either?msclkid=220ae9b3baa311ecb4e8c88a8342a09a>
- Consent for Kids video (disclaimer says "(Kids) can't consent to sexual stuff"):
<https://youtu.be/h3nhM9UJjc>
- Teaching Kids about Consent (includes video, activities & printables):
<https://www.safesecurekids.org/teaching-consent?msclkid=326e65c7baa511ec803dd31fafd7d42c>

Text to Text Connections:

Rissy No Kissy by Katey Howes; *Don't Touch My Hair* by Sharee Miller; *Personal Space Camp* by Julia Cook; *Can I Give You a Squish* by Emily Nelson.

Created By: Alicia Rogers

The First Blade of Sweetgrass

Written By: Suzanne Greenlaw and Gabriel Frey
Illustrated By: Nancy Baker

Synopsis: A modern Wabanaki girl is excited to accompany her grandmother for the first time to harvest sweetgrass for basket making.

Suggested Reading Date:

National Native American Heritage Month (November)

Also fits the PBIS themes of Gratitude (November) and Independence (June)

A note from the committee: We would strongly encourage you to read the back matter before sharing the story with students. The names and nicknames of the primary characters are used interchangeably; explaining how Musqon is also Tus and Uhkomi is the grandmother will help the kids to follow the story. Similarly, the first link in related websites below will help with pronunciations.

Activity Descriptions:

- Sweetgrass is used for making baskets; students might enjoy their own braiding projects with paper strips of different colors.
- Draw on our state resources in the Since Time Immemorial curriculum to talk about our own local tribes, and show the students example of local Native Art.
- If you're reading *Sweetgrass* during Native American Heritage Month this would be an opportune time for a guest speaker.

Related Websites:

- Passamaquoddy-Maliseet Language Portal: <https://pmportal.org/>
- Since Time Immemorial: <https://www.k12.wa.us/student-success/resources-subject-area/time-immemorial-tribal-sovereignty-washington-state>
- Pacific Northwest Coast Native Art: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Mz9OkG_BIRM
- Native American Basketry: <https://artsandculture.google.com/story/native-american-basketry/xgKCIVDR6UhdKQ>

Text to Text Connections:

Fry Bread, A Native American Family Story by Kevin Maillard

We Are Water Protectors by Carole Lindstrom (2021 Caldecott Medal Winner)

Baby Speaks Salish by Emma Noyes

Created By: Ryan Grant

The Floating Field: How a Group of Thai Boys Built Their Own Soccer Field

Written By: Scott Riley
Illustrated By: Nguyen Quang and Kim Lien

Synopsis: "On a tiny Thai island without room for a soccer field, a group of resourceful teen boys gathers scraps and works together to build a floating field so they can play the game they love"-- by publisher.

Suggested Reading Date: December 5 - National Day of Thailand; December 10 – International Football Day

Activity Descriptions:

- **How big is a soccer field?** Compare the sizes of fields/courts of various sports: football, soccer, rugby, lacrosse, hockey, basketball, etc.
- **Supply List:** Brainstorm and create a list of supplies that the boys needed to make the field. Extend by trying to determine how much of each item would be needed. (STEM activity). Further extend by building a floating model of the field.
- **Support your home team!** Make posters of support for local sports teams (maybe the local HS or teams the student's play on).

Related Websites:

- Video of Illustrators talking about the process of illustrating the book: <https://youtu.be/JLyX43Tg05w> (not in English, uses sub titles)
- Video of Koh Panyee Village: https://youtu.be/J5_bKc2O-is (2:35)
- TMB Panyee FC Short Film: <https://youtu.be/jU4oA3kkAWU> (5:14) (basically, shows the entire story as a short movie – not in English, uses subtitles)
- Sports Dimensions Guide (Australia): <https://www.dlgsc.wa.gov.au/sport-and-recreation/sports-dimensions-guide>

Text to Text Connections:

Above the Rim by Jen Bryant

Hoop Genius by John Coy

Boy Who Harnessed the Wind by William Kamkwamba and Bryan Mealer

Mudball by Matt Travers

Created By: Dave Sonnen

Fluffy McWhiskers Cuteness Explosion

Written By: Stephen W. Martin
Illustrated By: Dan Tavis

Synopsis: Fluffy McWhiskers is so cute that anyone who sees her instantly explodes, making it difficult for the little cat to find a single friend.

Suggested Reading Date: Any time of the year.

Activity Descriptions:

Help students understand Facts and Opinions

- Lesson on Facts and Opinions by Common Sense Media
<https://www.commonsense.org/education/lesson-plans/fact-and-opinion#0>
- Fact or Opinion Lesson for kids <https://youtu.be/DwdDCIWP6i4>



- Fluffy Fuzzy Pencil Tops <https://youtu.be/2Vw5p4CHnGI>



Related Websites:

- Author's Official Webpage: <http://www.stephen-w-martin.com/book>
- Illustrator's Webpage: <https://www.dantavis.com/>
- Author's Page Via Publisher's Website.
<https://www.simonandschuster.com/books/Fluffy-McWhiskers-Cuteness-Explosion/Stephen-W-Martin/9781534441453>
- Fluffy McWhiskers Story Time Kit
https://d28hgprl8am2if.cloudfront.net/tagged_assets/7840878/9781534441453_as_fluffy%20mcwhiskers_story%20time%20kit.pdf

Text to Text Connections:

Facts vs Opinions vs Robots by Michael Rex

Cats vs. Dogs by Elizabeth Carney

Created By: Charisse Tsukamoto

Help Wanted: Must Love Books

Written By: Janet Sumner Johnson

Illustrated By: Courtney Dawson

Synopsis: Shailey loves bedtime until her father gets distracted by a new job, so she advertises for a replacement 'Bedtime Storyteller' and finds herself interviewing her favorite fairytale characters

Suggested Reading Date: National Fairy Tale Day – February 26th, World Book Day – April 23rd

Activity Descriptions:

- **Writing:** Have students write a “resume” from the point of view of their favorite fairy tale character.
- **Create:** Make a Help Wanted poster and have students put them up around the Library or school.
- **Discuss & Create:** Have a discussion about fairy tale characters and what their favorite character is & make a chart to see the choices.
- **Draw:** Have students draw a picture of them reading their favorite book before bedtime.
- **Coloring pages:** <http://janetsumnerjohnson.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Help-Wanted-Must-Love-Books-Coloring-Sheets-FINAL.pdf>.

Related Websites:

- Author’s Website: <http://janetsumnerjohnson.com/>
- Illustrator’s Website: <https://tugeau2.com/courtney-dawson>
- Capstone Read Aloud On YouTube: <https://youtu.be/H92SlnLUZig>

Text to Text Connections:

If you like this book, you might also want to use.

- *Oh, Daddy* by Bob Shea
- *Lola Loves Stories* by Anna McQuinn
- *My Papi has a Motorcycle* by Isabel Quintero
- *Knuffle Bunny* by Mo Willems
- *Interrupting Chicken* by David Ezra Stein
- *Bedtime for Sweet Creatures* by Nikki Grimes
- *How Do Dinosaurs Say Goodnight?* By Jane Yolen

Created By: Jolyn Danielson

The Little Wooden Robot and the Log Princess

Written and Illustrated By: Tom Gauld

Synopsis: When a wooden robot prince forgets to say the magic words that turn his sister from a log into a princess she is thrown away, so he goes on an epic journey to find her and bring her back.

Suggested Reading Date: April 10, 2023 (National Sibling Day), February 26, 2023 (Tell a Fairy Tale Day), April 8th, 2023 to April 16th, 2023 (National Robotics Week)

Activity Descriptions:

- **Finish the Story:** The Little Wooden Robot and The Log Princess each have a page of “too many adventures to recount here” – have students work individually or in pairs to finish one of the adventure stories.
- **Venn Diagram:** Compare the King, Queen, Wooden Robot, and Log Princess – what is the same and what is different (male, female, wood, skin, hair, adult, child, made, born, etc.).
- **Shape Art:** The Little Wooden Robot and The Log Princess are each created with geometric shapes. Students can use pre-cut shapes to create different designs. They could work in pairs and/or trade colors/shapes as needed. They could also cut additional shapes that they need.
- **Discussion:** Is *The Little Wooden Robot and the Log Princess* a fairy tale? Before or after reading the book discuss common elements of fairy tales: beginning/ending, good vs. evil, magic, antagonist, moral. What is the same? What is different? Discuss the most prominent similarities and differences.

Related Websites:

- The Log Book: Tumgir site by Tom Gauld for *The Little Wooden Robot and the Log Princess*: <https://www.tumgir.com/thelogbook>
- Coloring Pages from Tom Gauld: <https://www.tomgauld.com/colouring>
- Publisher’s Weekly Q & A with Tom Gauld: <https://www.publishersweekly.com/pw/by-topic/childrens/childrens-authors/article/87176-q-a-with-tom-gauld.html>
- Tom Gauld’s Website: <https://www.tomgauld.com/>

Text to Text Connections:

If you like this book, you might also want to use these books about robots, adventures, or royalty:

- *Boy + Bot* by Ame Dyckman
- *Extra Yarn* by Mac Barnett and illustrated by Jon Klassen
- *Love, Z* by Jessie Sima
- *The Princess and the Pony* by Kate Beaton
- *The Paper Bag Princess* by Robert Munsch and illustrated by Michael Martchenko
- *The Antlered Ship* by Dashka Slater and illustrated by the Fan Brothers

Created By: Erin Quarterman

My Very Favorite Book in the Whole Wide World

Written By: Malcolm Mitchell

Illustrated By: Michael Robertson

Synopsis: Henley hates to read, so his homework assignment to bring in his favorite book seems an impossible challenge--until his mother shows him a box of books he made himself when he was younger.

Suggested Reading Date: World Book Day – April 23rd, World Read Aloud Day – February 1st, Beginning or End of the School Year

Activity Descriptions:

- Have students find their favorite book in the Library and talk to a peer about it.
- Students can write their own story by using drawings and/or writing on blank pages or booklets.
- Discuss what each students' favorite books are as a whole group or turn and learn moment.
- Have a bunch of different books on tables and have groups of students rotate around looking at each of them and picking their favorite from each table.

Related Websites:

- Author's website: <https://www.readwithmalcolm.com/meet-malcolm-mitchell/>
- Illustrator's website: <http://www.michaelrobertsonillustration.com/>
- YouTube video of author reading the book for World Read Aloud Day: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jXNFH-MNd2c;>
- Teacher's Guide from Scholastic: <https://www.scholastic.com/content/dam/scholastic/educators/discussion-guides/malcolm-mitchell-activity-guide.pdf>
- Scholastic Book Trailer by Malcolm Mitchell: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qojDMehoISO>

Text to Text Connections:

If you like this book, you might also want to use:

- *A Library Book for Bear* by Bonny Becker
- *Abdul's Story* by Jamilah Thompkins-Bigelow
- *The Story of a Story* by Deborah Hopkinson
- *The Book Hog* by Greg Pizzoli

Created By: Jolyn Danielson

The Mysterious Sea Bunny

Written and Illustrated By: Peter Raymundo

Synopsis: As an inch-long sea bunny makes its way slowly across the ocean floor, readers discover that there is a lot more to this sea slug species than meets the eye-which comes in handy when a predator swoops in!

Suggested Reading Date: April 3rd – World Aquatic Animal Day

Activity Descriptions:

- Practice picking out facts from the text- you could take notes, create an information web
- Watch a video of the sea bunny to see it in its habitat
- Research other nudibranchs using the video and article links below- for a local connection the Puget Sound nudibranch story is great
- Collect adjectives that could be used to describe the sea bunny- at the end look at how many seem like ones that would usually be used for a sea creature
- Discuss whether the book is fiction or nonfiction. Have students explain what parts are fictional and what is factual. You could tie this to organization in the library.
- Make sea bunnies! Cotton balls for the body and gills, rhinophores from black chenille stems, and markings with a sharpie.

Related Websites:

- Author Website- <http://www.raymundoarts.com>
- Story on Puget Sound nudibranchs – includes radio story, written article and pictures <https://www.kuow.org/stories/community-scientists-are-unlocking-the-secrets-of-puget-sound-sea-slugs>
- Video of Sea Bunny <https://thekidshouldseethis.com/post/this-jorunna-sea-slug-looks-like-a-tiny-fluffy-sea-bunny>
- Video showing how another nudibranch eats poison to protect itself <https://thekidshouldseethis.com/post/these-stunning-sea-slugs-steal-weapons-from-their-hydroid-prey>
- Article from Hakai Magazine – includes amazing photographs of other nudibranchs (not the sea bunny) <https://hakaimagazine.com/videos-visuals/nudibranchs-armed-and-fabulous/>

Text to Text Connections:

The Most Amazing Creature in the Sea by Brenda Guiberson
Inky's Amazing Escape by Sy Montgomery

Created By: Paula Wittmann

Norman Didn't Do It! (Yes, He Did.)

Written and Illustrated By: Ryan T. Higgins

Synopsis: Norman, a porcupine whose best friend is a tree named Mildred, begins to feel jealous when another tree grows close to Mildred and acts out against the tree new.

Suggested Reading Date: Most of these dates fall outside the reading calendar. National Friendship Day: July 30th, Porcupine Appreciation Day is July 2nd, Love a Tree Day is May 16th, Arbor Day is April 29th. The beginning of the year might be an ideal opportunity in providing a foundation in building friendships.

Activity Descriptions:

- Have a discussion regarding jealousy. Have students discuss where they have felt jealous toward a friend, classmate, or relative. Discuss strategies of how students can overcome feeling jealous.
- Have students draw a picture of a time that they felt jealous and how they overcame their feelings of jealousy.
- Story map the story as a class including characters, setting, problem, and solution.
- Compare and Contrast character traits of Norman the porcupine from *Norman Didn't Do It! (Yes, He Did.)* and Bruce the bear from *Mother Bruce* by Ryan T. Higgins.

Related Websites:

- Author's Website Via Disney: <https://books.disney.com/book-author/ryan-t-higgins/>
- Activity Pages: <https://books.disney.com/content/uploads/2021/03/NormanDidntDoIt-ActShts-2753-FINAL.pdf>
- YouTube Interview with Kim Carson: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tEfReD7DpL0>

Text to Text Connections:

I Want That Nut by Madeline Valentine

Neck and Neck by Elise Parsley

Enemy Pie by Derek Munson

Mother Bruce by Ryan T. Higgins

Created By: Stephanie Wilson

The Old Man and the Penguin: A True Story About Friendship

Written By: Julie Abery
Illustrated By: Pierre Pratt

Synopsis: The true story of Joao Pereira de Souza of Brazil, who cared for a Magellanic penguin that had been caught in an oil spill.

Suggested Reading Date: January – National Penguin Awareness Day, January 20th.

Activity Descriptions:

- Use a map to **introduce the setting**, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.
- Generate a chart about **WHAT we know** about Penguins in general, **WHAT we want to learn** about story's main character, Magellanic Penguins, and **WHAT we learned** after researching with students. (PebbleGo is a very user-friendly for elementary students.)

Related Websites:

- Author's Website - <https://www.kidscanpress.com/products/old-man-and-penguin>
- Illustrator's Website - <http://www.pierrepratt.com/2020/>
- YouTube - Meet Joao and Dindim - <https://youtu.be/oks2R4LqWtE>
- YouTube - Penguin Corner Bookmark - <https://youtu.be/b6fcExaAYEI>
- YouTube - Penguin Origami - <https://youtu.be/zRXo7ziQbGo>



Text to Text Connections:

Pierre the Penguin by Jean Marzollo
Lost and Found by Oliver Jeffers
Penguins don't Wear Sweaters! by Markikka Tamura
Penguin by Polly Dunbar
Blue Penguin by Petyr Horacek
The Emperor's Egg by Martin Jenkins

Created By: Charisse Tsukamoto

Room for Everyone

Written By: Naaz Khan

Illustrated By: Merce Lopez

Synopsis: Musa and his sister travel to a Zanzibar beach in a shared minibus which, despite Musa's protests, gets loaded with everything from a man and his bicycle to ten swimmers.

Suggested Reading Date: Beginning of the school year, when students are learning how to make room for and include everyone.

Activity Descriptions:

- Play a game of "Sardines" with the children. This is like Hide n' Seek, except only one person hides. Once you find the hidden person, you just join them until no one is left. It literally feels like there is ***no more room for everyone*** to hide with you. It also causes lots of giggling as you try to fit everyone in, much like in the story.
- Print out images of the bus, the swimmers, etc., and post them on the whiteboard (with magnets on the back, and let the children take turns "fitting the characters into the bus. Following the sequence of events. You'll want to start with a pretty big image of the bus, of course. Trying to fit them all them in is sure to cause lots of laughter, as the students struggle to make it work out. There will be feet hanging out of the windows, arms out of the top, and other silly circumstances.
- Simon and Schuster has created two activity pages (one pdf). Click on *Resources and Downloads > Activity Sheets* on the following webpage:
<https://www.simonandschuster.com/books/Room-for-Everyone/Naaz-Khan/9781534431393>
- Ask students: Have you ever felt like there couldn't possibly be room for one more person or animal in your household -- and then you gained one more? And, later, you can't imagine living without that new baby brother or puppy ever again. Our hearts can grow to fit everyone in!

Related Websites:

- Author Website: <https://naazkhan.org/>
- Pictures of real dala dalas in Tanzania: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dala_dala
- Information/Sights from Tanzania: <https://www.safaridrive.com/post/10-amazing-facts-about-tanzania>

Text to Text Connections:

The Day You Begin by Jacqueline Woodson, *A Chair for my Mother* by Vera Williams, *Last Stop on Market Street* by Matt de la Peña, *Good People Everywhere* by Lynea Gillen, *Have You Filled a Bucket Today* by Carol McCloud

Created By: Sherry Loniewski

Seven Golden Rings: A Tale of Music and Math

Written By: Rajani LaRocca

Illustrated: Archana Sreenivasan

Synopsis: In ancient India, a boy named Bhagat travels to the Rajah's city, hoping to ensure his family's prosperity by winning a place at court as a singer.

Suggested Reading Date: January 14 – World Logic Day or January 29 – National Puzzle Day

Activity Descriptions:

- Explore binary numbers. There is information in the book's backmatter and links to a video below. Discuss their use in computers and electronics.
- Discuss the connections between music and math in the text. Share musical notation. Point out the connection to music and the solution to the chain problem.
- Use the book as a jump off point to explore India through maps, books, and databases
- Recreate the chain puzzle as you read the book to see if students can figure out the solution. (you could use paper chains or wire) Also available on the activity sheet below.
- Math in everyday life. Where do your students see it in the book? Where do they see it in their lives? You might discuss the importance of a budget for Baghat and his mother.
- Have students give their opinion on whether they think it would be better to become a musician for the rajah or the job he ended up with and why they think one would be better than the other.
- Explore the problems that Baghat faced and what problem-solving steps he followed to find solutions.

Related Websites:

- Author's Website - <https://www.rajaniarocca.com>
- Illustrator's Website - <https://archanasreenivasan.com>
- Publisher Lesson Plan - https://www.leeandlow.com/uploads/loaded_document/952/SevenGoldenRings_TeachersGuide.pdf
- Activity guide from Lee and Low -includes a coloring sheet with the ring puzzle and picture - https://www.leeandlow.com/uploads/loaded_document/866/SEVEN_GOLDEN_RINGS_activity-guide.fa.pdf
- Video explaining the binary system (computer focused) It is long, but one could easily show just the first half which shows how to count to ten in binary - <https://youtu.be/hvteVokz7jE>

Text to Text Connections:

One Grain of Rice by Demi, *A Feast of Peas* by Kashmiri Sheth, *Two of Everything* by Lilly Toy Hong, *The Elephant's Friend and other tales from Ancient India* by Marcia Williams.

Created By: Paula Wittmann

Sloth and Squirrel in a Pickle

Written By: Cathy Ballou Mealy
Illustrated By: Kelly Collier

Synopsis: Sloth and Squirrel are good friends, but when Squirrel gets them jobs as pickle packers to earn money for a new bike, things do not go according to plan

Suggested Reading Date:

- National Pickle Day, Nov 14
- Make a Friend Day, Feb 11
- National Bike Month (May)

Activity Descriptions:

- Start talking/promoting to kids about "Bike to School Day" in May. National Center for Safe Routes to School provides many resources:
<https://www.walkbiketoschool.org/>
- Discuss what it means to work in a team. Sloth is slow, does that bother squirrel? What does sloth contribute? Squirrel? What does that look like at school? How can we do group activities so everyone helps?
- Do a teamwork activity:
 - Ray Center (Drake University) Teamwork Skills Lesson:
<https://raycenter.wp.drake.edu/2021/05/25/k-5-lesson-plan-teamwork/>
 - Weareteachers.com Team Building Games & Activities:
<https://www.weareteachers.com/team-building-games-and-activities/>

Related Websites:

- Author website, Cathy Ballou Mealy: <https://cathyballoumealey.wordpress.com>
- Illustrator "Kids Can Press" webpage, Kelly Collier:
<https://www.kidscanpress.com/creators/kelly-collier/909>
- Interview with Cathy Ballou Mealy about the book:
<https://deborahkalbbooks.blogspot.com/2021/05/q-with-cathy-ballou-mealey.html>
- Video, "How It's Done" Pickle Making: <https://youtu.be/ETGrDcPrOZM>

Text to Text Connections:

The Cookie Fiasco by Dan Santat

Team Steve by Kelly Collier

Sloth at the Zoom by Helaine Becker

The Party by Sergio Ruzzier

Created By: Roman Maunupau

Someone Builds a Dream

Written By: Lisa Wheeler

Illustrated By: Loren Long

Synopsis: Celebrates the skilled women and men who work to see the plans of architects, engineers, and designers brought to life.

Suggested Reading Date:

- Labor Day, Sep 5
- World Architecture Day, Oct 3
- STEAM Day, Nov 8

Activity Descriptions:

- Do a marshmallow-toothpick construction challenge or project.
 - (basic) <https://playteachrepeat.com/marshmallow-toothpick-building-challenge/>
 - (more advanced) <https://www.instructables.com/Marshmallow-Toothpick-Structures/>
- Discuss the book
 - Scholastic Curriculum Guide: https://westonwoods.scholastic.com/products/westonwoods/study_guides/4008SG.pdf
 - NEA Read Across America: <https://www.nea.org/professional-excellence/student-engagement/read-across-america/find-your-book/someone-builds-dream>

Related Websites:

- Author Website: <https://www.lisawheelerbooks.com/>
- Illustrator Website: <https://lorenlong.com/>
- Video, "How are Skyscrapers built?", LEGO <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ewNKuacMtkw>

Text to Text Connections:

We Are Water Protectors by Carol Linstrom

Hidden Figures: The True Story of Four Black Woman and the Space Race by Margo Lee Shetterly

Created By: Roman Maunupau

Ten Beautiful Things

Written By: Molly Beth Griffin

Illustrated By: Maribel Lechuga

Synopsis: Lily is moving to her grandmother’s farm in Iowa, and she is sad about all the changes necessary in her life—but on the long drive her grandmother challenges her to find ten beautiful things they can share together.

Suggested Reading Date:

Grandparent’s Day (September 11th)

National Family Day (September 26th)

Also fits the PBIS themes of Gratitude (November), Courage (April), and Being Positive (May)

Activity Descriptions:

- Talk about different family structures, and how family includes both those who live with you and those who may live far away.
- Lily is moving from the city to the Iowa countryside; show a map of Iowa to help the kids understand where she’s going, and also talk about the different settings within and around your own community and Washington State more broadly.
- If you have access to physical maps, let the kids explore the different features of a map and give a mini-lesson on how distances on a map are calculated.
- There are several uses of language in the book where Lily’s physical feelings are used to show her emotions; talk about how your body feels during different emotions. How can you self-regulate to get yourself centered again?
- Create a zine where the kids draw 10 beautiful things from their own lives; it can be small enough to keep in their pockets (see below).

Related Websites:

- Library Lessons With Books on Ten Beautiful Things, including the zine idea from above: <https://librarylessonswithbooks.com/ten-beautiful-things/>
- Molly Beth Griffin’s author website: <https://mollybethgriffin.com/>
- Maribel Lechuga’s illustrator website: <http://www.maribellechuga.com/>
- What Is a Family?, by Learning for Justice: <https://www.learningforjustice.org/classroom-resources/lessons/what-is-a-family>

Text to Text Connections:

Just Like Mama by Alice Faye Duncan

Home for a While by Laura Kerstein

And Tango Makes Three by Justin Richardson and Peter Parnell

The Blue House by Phoebe Wahl

Created By: Ryan Grant

XO, Exoplanet

Written By: Deborah Underwood
Illustrated By: Jorge Lacera

Synopsis: When Jupiter notices a planet circling a far star, he enlists the other planets in our solar system to send a letter, but soon there is a disagreement on which, exactly, is the exoplanet.

Suggested Reading Date: National Astronomy Day – April 16th; Space Day – 1st Friday in May; International Day of Planetariums – 2nd Sunday in March

Activity Descriptions:

- Learn more about Exoplanets at: <https://www.sciencebuddies.org/projects-lessons-activities/exoplanets?msclkid=3861fc7cd0ab11ecb0c486657c218902> or <https://exoplanets.nasa.gov/?msclkid=38619a53d0ab11eca6f7b1c3135faa15>
- Learn more about the planets in our solar system: <https://spaceplace.nasa.gov/menu/solar-system/> (NASA Site) or Planets For Kids: <https://www.planetsforkids.org/>
- Discuss perspectives & how often our misunderstandings come from not understanding how other people see things. Read books suggested below about perspective. Teach using “I Statements.” For more ideas: <https://www.wholechildcounseling.com/post/perspective-taking-the-social-skill-you-want-to-be-teaching-kids?msclkid=b9cb808dd0af11ecb999493427c3e60a>
- Write a letter to planets or exoplanets about why students would want to visit there.
- Make a physical model of the planets out of Styrofoam balls or other materials.

Related Websites:

- Author’s Website: <http://www.deborahunderwoodbooks.com/>
- Illustrator’s Website: <http://www.studiolacera.com/>
- Video Trailer: <https://vimeo.com/555867296>
- Teaching tips from Hachette: <https://www.hachettebookgroup.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/PR5888-XO-Exoplanet-Teaching-Tips-final.pdf>

Text to Text Connections:

Life on Mars by Jon Agee

The Darkest Dark by Chris Hadfield

The Wall in the Middle of the Book by Jon Agee

Hey, Little Ant by Phillip M. Hoose

Alfie: The Turtle That Disappeared by Thyra Heder

The Day the Crayons Quit by Drew Daywalt

Created By: Alicia Rogers