

Claude: The True Story of a White Alligator

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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