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:
- YouTube video of Claude: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bX4MKMKXIdA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bX4MKMKXIdA)
- National Geographic on Albino Animals: [https://www.nationalgeographic.com/animals/article/albino-animals](https://www.nationalgeographic.com/animals/article/albino-animals)
- Emma Bland Smith’s author page: [https://emmabsmith.com/](https://emmabsmith.com/)
- Jennifer Potter’s illustrator page: [https://www.jennifermpotter.com/](https://www.jennifermpotter.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

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