**My Pet Book**

**AUTHOR/ILLUSTRATOR:** Bob Staake  
**PUBLISHER:** Random House  
**COPYRIGHT:** 2014  
**ART MEDIUM:** color digital images  
**GENRE:** Humor, Fantasy  
**LIFE SKILLS:** Friendship, Responsibility, Caring

**SYNOPSIS:**  
This is a rhyming story of a young boy in Smartytown who wants a pet but chooses a book instead of a typical pet. The book explains why the boy chose a book over another pet and what happens when the book becomes lost. The boy and his book have some good times, as well as a scare or two.

**BOOKTALK:**  
What would be the perfect pet? How about one that you did not have to remember to feed? Maybe you’d like one that you did not have to clean up after or take to the vet? Would you prefer one that would not eat your homework? Would you enjoy having a pet that could share adventures with you? Maybe a book is the perfect pet for you! Find out how one little boy from Smartytown lost, and then found, the perfect pet. Most people choose cats and dogs as pets, but not the little boy in this book. He has a pet book!

**AUTHOR/ILLUSTRATOR:** Bob Staake

Author/illustrator Bob Staake was born in September, 1957, in Los Angeles, CA. He attended the University of California as a journalism and international relations student. Mr. Staake went on to start his children’s book career in 1992 when he wrote and illustrated *My Little 123 Book*. Since then, Staake has written and illustrated dozens of children’s books. His illustrations have also been used in the *Washington Post* newspaper and the *New Yorker* magazine. He currently resides in Chatham, Massachusetts

**Other books written and illustrated by Bob Staake:**  
*The Donut Chef!*  
*Hello, Robots*  
*Look! A Book!*  
*The Red Lemon*  
*This is NOT a Pumpkin*

**Other books illustrated by the illustrator:**  
*I’m a Truck*  
*Mary Had a Little Lamp*  
*One Hundred Shoes*  
*Pigs Rock!*  
*Sputter Sputter Sput*
CHALLENGING WORDS:
bought
bleat
rarity
unison
strolled
taut
awesomeness
charity
thrift store
musty

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:
1. Why do you think a book would be a good or bad pet?
2. If you had a pet book, would you like it to be a fiction or non-fiction book? Why?
3. What would make the perfect pet for you?
4. Why do people like pets so much?
5. What do you think happens after the story ends? Does the boy keep the book as his pet forever?
6. Do you think a boy could have just one book as a pet? Why or why not?
7. Can you give a reason why you would not want a book for a pet?
8. Does your family have a pet? How did you pick your pet? How did you name it?

ACTIVITIES WITH STANDARDS:

Art:

- Have students watch video of how Bob Staake uses technology to create illustrations.
  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fnT5WKQe3gM
  Next, have students use computer technology to help them create book covers or illustrations for a student-created book about their favorite pet.

  **Standard:** 2.7.4 Identify and use a balance of two-dimensional and three-dimensional media, techniques, and processes to effectively communicate ideas, experiences, and stories.

Language Arts:

- After reading the story, ask students if they noticed words that rhymed. (You may have to remind them that this means words that sound similar.) Ask them to name some of the rhyming words and write them for all to see. Have students pick a set of words and write them down, then circle the letters in the word that are the same and underline the letters in the words that are different. Pick some of the words
and see if the class can come up with more words that rhyme with them. Older students can write a sentence using their rhyming words.

**Standard:** K.RF 3.1, 1.RF.3.1, 2.3.1 Identify and produce rhyming words.

**Research**

- Using available technology, show students how they can type in a word and search for a definition. Find a definition of the word charity to read aloud. Ask students for examples they can think of, either from home or perhaps a school food drive. Discuss how charity can help others.

**Standard:** K.W.5, 1.W.5, 2.W.5 With support, conduct simple research on a topic.

**RELATED INTERNET SITES:**

Random House Kids Bob Staake site. Includes activity pages
http://www.randomhousekids.com/brand/bob-staake/

Author’s Website
http://www.bobstaake.com/page5.shtml

Video-Bob Staake works in Photoshop 3.0
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fnT5WKQe3gM