

Hooray for Amanda and Her Alligator

AUTHOR: Willems, Mo

ILLUSTRATOR: Willems, Mo

PUBLISHER: Balzer+Bray

COPYRIGHT DATE: 2011

ART MEDIUM: watercolors

GENRE: Humor, Fantasy

LIFE SKILLS: Trustworthiness, Caring, Patience, Friendship, Sense of Humor

SYNOPSIS: Amanda and her alligator are special friends that like to make each other laugh with interesting surprises. Together they learn to be there for each other even during the times when it may be difficult. Best of all, Alligator learns that he is Amanda's best friend and also that he can make new friends.

Or

Amanda and her alligator have always been best friends. What will happen when she brings a new friend home?

BOOKTALK:

Amanda is lucky to have books, toys and friends. She knows how to beat boredom better than anyone alligator knows. Together these two make a fantastic team. Come along to get silly with Amanda and her Alligator. New friends are always welcome!

AUTHOR:

Mo Willems

Mo Willems is a well-known children's author of the "Knuffle Bunny" and the "Pigeon" books. Three of his books have received a Caldecott Honor designation. He has also won the Geisel Medal and Geisel Honor Award. Before writing, he was an animator and writer on the children's show, Sesame Street.

Other books written by the author:

Are You Ready to Play Outside?

Big Frog Can't Fit In: A pop-up book

Can I Play Too?

Cat the Cat, Who Is That?

City Dog, Country Frog

Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus! — Caldecott Honor 2004

Don't Let the Pigeon Stay Up Late!

Edwina, the Dinosaur Who Didn't Know She Was Extinct
Elephants Cannot Dance!
Happy Pig Day!
I Am Going!
I Am Invited to a Party!
I Broke My Trunk!
I Love My New Toy!
I Will Surprise my Friend!
Knuffle Bunny Free: An Unexpected Diversion
Knuffle Bunny Too: A Case of Mistaken Identity — Caldecott Honor 2008
Knuffle Bunny: A Cautionary Tale — Caldecott Honor 2005
Leonardo, the Terrible Monster
Let's Say Hi to Friends Who Fly
Listen to My Trumpet!
My Friend is Sad
Naked Mole Rat Gets Dressed
Pigeon Finds a Hot Dog, The!
Pigeon Has Feelings, Too, The!
Pigeon Loves Things That Go, The!
Pigeon Wants a Puppy, The
Pigs Make Me Sneeze!
Should I Share My Ice Cream?
The Duckling Gets a Cookie?
There is Bird on Your Head!
Time to Pee!
Time to Say "Please"!
Time to Sleep, Sheep the Sheep!
Today I Will Fly!
Watch Me Throw the Ball!
We Are In a Book!
What's Your Sound, Hound the Hound?
You Can Never Find a Rickshaw When It Monsoons

CHALLENGING WORDS (...due to pronunciation, spelling and/or defining):

paced
fiddled
profit
gasp
solution
boredom
discoveries

climbing
interesting
surprised

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- 1 Amanda explains to alligator that he is priced to be her best friend. What value would you place on your favorite toys and why?
- 2 Have you ever had to tell someone you care about something that is difficult to say? What words did you use to make it easier?
- 3 Alligator has a real thinking cap but it is often just an expression. What does it mean to put on your thinking cap?
- 4 Do you have a favorite toy like Amanda does?
- 5 What are some adjectives that could describe the alligator.
- 6 Do you think expensive toys are better than inexpensive toys? Why or why not?
- 7 How did the alligator change by the end of the story?
8. For Amanda, books beat boredom. Alligator is not quite sure. Which books would you recommend to Alligator so he is not bored?

ACTIVITIES with CORE STANDARDS:

Language Arts:

Language Arts activities, include Core Standards

1. Write a chapter seven for the story.

W.K.3. Use a combination of drawing, dictating, and writing to narrate a single event or several loosely linked events, tell about the events in the order in which they occurred, and provide a reaction to what happened.

W.1.3. Write narratives in which they recount two or more appropriately sequenced events, include some details regarding what happened, use temporal words to signal event order, and provide some sense of closure.

W.2.3. Write narratives in which they recount a well-elaborated event or short sequence of events, include details to describe actions, thoughts, and feelings, use temporal words to signal event order, and provide a sense of closure.

2. Write a letter to the toy store that alligator came from, pretending to be the alligator, and explain why he's really worth more than 7 cents.

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W.2.3. Write narratives in which they recount a well-elaborated event or short sequence of events, include details to describe actions, thoughts, and feelings, use temporal words to signal event order, and provide a sense of closure.

3. Alligator has trouble picking out good books. What are some books you think he would enjoy? Make a list of recommendations.

4. Look at Panda’s face in the last story. Notice how his face changes as he gets tired of waiting. Do you get the feeling that it is not much fun waiting for Amanda? Examine facial expressions in other stories and discuss how pictures help you get to know characters or setting.

3.RL.7 Explain how specific aspects of a text’s illustrations contribute to what is conveyed by the words in a story (e.g., create mood, emphasize aspects of a character or setting.)

5. Panda and Alligator decided to keep busy and do fun activities while waiting for Amanda. Draw pictures of other activities they could do while trying to be patient.

2.RL.3 Describe how characters in a story respond to major events and challenges.

Science:

Find out more about alligators.

W.K.7. Participate in shared research and writing projects (e.g., explore a number of books by a favorite author and express opinions about them).

W.1.7. Participate in shared research and writing projects (e.g., explore a number of “how-to” books on a given topic and use them to write a sequence of instructions).
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RELATED INTERNET SITES:

Mo Willems’ Personal website: <http://www.mowillems.com/>

Mo Willems’ Fun and Games website: <http://www.gomo.net/page.php?name=Home>

Mo Willems on Teaching Books.net:
<http://www.teachingbooks.net/tb.cgi?aid=1736>

Pigeon Presents: <http://www.pigeonpresents.com/>

Mo Willems’ Blog: <http://mowillemsdoodles.blogspot.com/>