

Reading Roundup

Giraffe Problems

Written by Jory John
Illustrated by Lane Smith

Reading Roundup
Partners



Introduction

Gather the students around you so that they are able to see the illustrations of the book. Most classrooms will have an area rug defining this space. Introduce yourself and tell the students that you are excited to share Giraffe Problems, written by Jory John and illustrated by Lane Smith..

Before Reading

P - *Look at the cover. What do you think a giraffe might be self-conscious about? (The giraffe might be embarrassed, or self-conscious because his neck is so long.) The giraffe is embarrassed because he doesn't look like the other animals. Let's read to find out how Edward the giraffe learns to feel better about himself.*

During Reading

- Begin reading the book by starting on the title page. Hold the book so that students are able to see the illustrations. Give plenty of time for students to "read" and think about the pictures. Continue to read through page 15.

- **Page 15 - T/T** - *What do you think Edward meant when he said these words? Turn and talk to your partner about what "It's a neck only a mother could love." might mean.* (Mothers love their children no matter what. Mothers love their children just the way they are.) - **P** - *Why do you think Edward is so embarrassed by his neck?* (Edward is the only animal that looks this way. No other animal has a neck as long.) Continue reading through page 21.

- **Page 22 - 23** While reading Cyrus's speech, beginning with, "Ahem. There is a hill in the distance..." be sure to speak in a confident, professor-like voice. While reading Edward's response, "You want a banana from a tree?" speak in a casual, "are-you-kidding-me" voice.

- **T/T** - *Turn and talk to your partner about what you think Edward is beginning to learn about himself.* (Edward is beginning to understand that he can easily do things that are impossible for other animals. What makes Edward different, makes him helpful and appreciated.)

- **P** - *Why did the author choose a turtle to help Edward instead of another animal?* (The author chose a turtle to help the giraffe because turtles have very short necks. Many tasks that are easy for giraffes are impossible for turtles.)



After Reading

Have you ever felt embarrassed because you weren't like everyone else? (Ask students to think about this question without responding.)

Remember, you are perfect just the way you are. You don't need to be like everyone else to be special. It's what makes you different that makes you interesting, helpful, and... perfect.

Vocabulary

Shrubs – bushes p. 10

Ditches – a long hole dug in the ground p. 10

Gander, Gaze, Glimpse – look pp. 12, 13, 14

Pathetic – terrible p. 19

Delectable – delicious p. 28

**WORD
WAGON**