



Reading Roundup



I Wanna New Room

Written by Karen Kaufman Orloff

Illustrated by David Catron

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 I Wanna New Room, written by Karen Kaufman Orloff and illustrated by David Catrow.

Before Reading

This fun and thoughtful book is written and illustrated by the same team who brought us I Wanna Iguana, a popular story many of you have heard and read. After a new baby sister is brought home, Alex must share his room with his younger brother. Raise your hand if you share a bedroom with someone at your house. As we read this book, try to put yourself in Alex's place and feel what he feels.

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 7**.
- **Page 7 – T/T** – *Alex is exhausted and unhappy about sharing his bedroom with his younger brother Ethan. He signs his letter to his mom as, “Your very tired son, Alex.” Turn to your partner and talk about what Mom is most likely trying to tell Alex when she signs her response, “Your very, VERY tired mother.” (Mom is taking care of a newborn baby and is not getting sleep either. She’s telling Alex that she is more exhausted than Alex.)*
- **Page 15 – P** – *Alex signs his letter, “Your diplomatic son, Alex.” Diplomatic describes someone who solves problems in a polite way. Look at what he writes to Ethan. Notice he writes using all capital letters and writes “OR ELSE” in bold letters. Is Alex being diplomatic? (No. Using all capital letters tells Ethan he’s angry, and using bold letters in writing is like yelling when speaking.)*
- **Page 23 – T/T** – *It’s important to notice when a character says something we don’t expect. Dad’s message to Alex changes. Turn to your partner and talk about how Dad’s message changes and why you think he sent a different message this time. (Dad’s message to Alex is more understanding and offers a solution for Alex’s lack of privacy. Dad starts listening to Alex and wants to help.)*
- **Page 29 – T/T** – *Alex and his dad work together to build the treehouse of his dreams. I’m thinking about why the illustrator painted Alex green. Turn and talk to your partner about Alex’s feelings about the new treehouse. How does painting Alex the same color as the tree help us know how he feels. (Alex is very excited about the treehouse. He’s smiling, dancing, and waving his arms in delight. Alex is so excited that he turns the same color as the tree.)*
- **Page 33 – P** – *After spending time alone, Alex decides to write a message to his little brother Ethan. Does this surprise you? (Answers will vary. Encourage children to support their answers using words and illustrations from the book.)*

After Reading

The notes written back and forth between Alex and his family make us smile. Perhaps we find the letters funny because most of us have had similar feelings. We understand how it feels to need time alone in our own space. The story also reminds us about the importance of the people in our lives and families.

Remember, change isn’t always easy. Whether you have changes in your family, your friends, or where you live, change can be hard. And remember, be brave and ask people you trust for what you need. You may be surprised at how they will help you feel easier.

Vocabulary

- diplomatic** – polite, p. 14
- general** – p. 18
- principle** – important rule, p. 23
- condo** – apartment, p. 26

**WORD
WAGON**

