



# Reading Roundup



## My Very Favorite Book in the Whole Wide World

Written by Malcolm Mitchell

Illustrated by  
Michael Robertson

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 My Very Favorite Book in the Whole Wide World, written by Malcolm Mitchell and illustrated by Michael Robertson.

### Before Reading

*The author of this book is a professional football player. His name is Malcolm Mitchell, and he played for the New England Patriots. As a student, he describes himself as lonely and scared because he wasn't able to read well. One day, Malcolm decided he would work just as hard to be a better reader as he worked at playing football. He had a lot of caring, patient people in his life who helped him – especially his mom, who he calls his "superstar." Let's read together a book about a boy called Henley, who's a lot like Malcolm Mitchell, the struggling reader who turned into an author.*



## 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 9.

- **Page 9** – *Henley tried to read books that were boring or too long. Other times, he tried to read books that had words that were too big and had too many pages. -T/T- Do you think Henley might have felt different about reading if he had been able to choose the books he read? If so, what types of books do you think Henley would have liked? Which words from the book make you think that? Turn and talk to a partner about this.* (Henley might have enjoyed reading more if he could have chosen books about football or sports. He would rather play football in the backyard than read homework assignments.)

- **Pages 12-13 -P-** *Look at the illustration. How does the picture help the reader understand how Henley is feeling about the homework assignment?* (The other children are smiling and look excited, but Henley is scared and looks nervous.)

- **Page 17** – *Think about how the author, Malcolm Mitchell, felt as a struggling reader. -T/T- The words say Henley felt “more lost than ever.” Turn and talk to someone about what you think those words really mean?* (Henley wasn’t really lost. He felt lonely and left out of the group.)

- **Page 25** – *Henley’s words and the expression on his face are completely different now. -P- Rather than feeling lonely, scared, and nervous, what words might you use to describe Henley’s feelings now?* (Henley’s smile lets the reader know he is feeling happy and excited to share his very favorite book. He says he “can hardly wait to share.”)

- **Page 30 -T/T-** *Look carefully at the illustration. What can we learn about Henley’s book by “reading” the picture?* (Henley wrote a book about trying to find his very favorite book. He wrote about taking his books to the swimming pool to see how well they swim, feeling left out by his friends at the library, being overwhelmed at the bookstore, feeding his dinosaur books to the museum dinosaur, and never finding a book that interested him. He finally wrote a book about himself.)

## After Reading

*Author Malcolm Mitchell, and illustrator Michael Robertson work together to tell a story about Henley, a young boy who never found a book he wanted to read. Let’s go back in the book to read words and look at illustrations that tell us how Henley’s feelings change over time.*

**Page 14 -P-** *What is Henley feeling when he sees his friends going to the library together?* (Henley feels left out of the group and lonely.)

**Page 19 -P-** *“I grew a sad face and stomped all the way home.” How did Henley feel after leaving the bookstore?* (Henley was furious because he couldn’t find a book he liked.)

**Page 22 -P-** *“After a sweet kiss on the forehead, Mama’s words lit up inside me.” Is Henley angry anymore? How is he feeling?* (Henley feels loved and encouraged by his mother.)

**Page 26 -P-** *“I stood proud as all eyes in the reading circle stared at me.” What changed? Why did Henley feel proud instead of lonely and scared?* (He decided to write his own book, which became his very favorite book in the whole wide world.)

**Remember** – People read for many reasons, and the most important reason is for enjoyment. Think about yourself and what interests you. Ask adults who know and care about you to help you find your very favorite book in the whole wide world. Or better yet, write your own.

## Vocabulary

*My Very Favorite Book in the Whole Wide World* is authored using simple words that are easily understood by young readers.

**WORD  
WAGON**

