



A Sick Day for Amos McGee

by Philip C. Stead

- Teacher's Guide
- Discussion Questions
- Bonus Activity!

Common Core Standards-based for grades K, 1, 2

A Sick Day for Amos McGee

A Teacher's Guide

Learning Objectives

Students will be able to:

- Use context clues to determine the meaning of new vocabulary words.
- Use illustrations to gain a deeper understanding of the characters, setting, and plot.
- Focus on the theme of friendship and give examples of characters being good friends to each other throughout the story.
- Give examples of how they can be good friends to others in their own lives.

Summary

Amos McGee is a kind zookeeper who cares for and is friends with each animal in his zoo. One day he is sick in bed and the animals come to visit and take care of him.

Reading Levels

- Interest Level: K-3 (Age 5-8)
- Reading Level: M

Common Core ELA Standards:

- Kindergarten

- ELA-LITERACY.RL.K.1 (With prompting and support, ask and answer questions about key details in a text.)
- ELA-LITERACY.RL.K.2 (With prompting and support, retell familiar stories, including key details.)
- ELA-LITERACY.RL.K.4 (Ask and answer questions about unknown words in a text.)
- ELA-LITERACY.RL.K.7 (With prompting and support, describe the relationship between illustrations and the story in which they appear (e.g. what moment in a story an illustration depicts))

- First Grade

- ELA-LITERACY.RL.1.1 (Ask and answer questions about key details in a text.)
- ELA-LITERACY.RL.1.2 (Retell stories, including key details, and demonstrate understanding of their central message or lesson.)
- ELA-LITERACY.RL.1.7 (Use illustrations and details in a story to describe its characters, setting, or events.)
- ELA-LITERACY.L.1.4.A (Use sentence-level context as a clue to the meaning of a word or phrase.)

- Second Grade

- ELA-LITERACY.RL.2.1 (Ask and answer such questions as who, what, where, when, why, and how to demonstrate understanding of key details in a text.)
- ELA-LITERACY.RL.2.7 (Use information gained from the illustrations and words in a print or digital text to demonstrate understanding of its characters, setting, or plot.)

Discussion Questions

Before Reading:

- Look at the front cover. What does the title make you think the book will be about? What are the characters doing? Which character do you think is Amos McGee?
- This book received an award called the Caldecott Medal because of its illustrations. They only give out one Medal every year so there's something really special about the pictures in this book. While we read, let's pay close attention to the pictures and see if they help us understand the story better.

During the Read-aloud:

- What do you think the word **swapped** means? ("Amos swapped his pajamas for a fresh-pressed uniform") What would happen if you and your friend swapped crayons while you're drawing?

During the read-aloud (continued):

- Look at the picture of Amos leaving for work. Does he look like he is rushing or walking calmly? What do you think it means to **amble** out the door?
- What are some things that Amos McGee does every morning? What are some things you do every morning?
- How do you know that Amos is a good friend to the animals at the zoo? How does he show that he cares about them?
- How do the animals get to Amos' house? Do the words tell us or do the pictures show us?
- How did the animals help Amos feel better?

After Reading:

- If you look very closely at the pictures throughout the story, you can see some tiny animals doing different things. Let's go back and see if we can find any animals that we might have missed while we were reading. What are the animals doing?

After Reading (continued):

- Do you think this story is **fiction** (make-believe) or **nonfiction** (something that really happened)? Why? (*Fiction because animals don't really act the way that they do in the story*)
- In the story, Amos and the animals are good friends, and they do kind things for each other. What are some ways that you can show your friends that you care?

Activity: Kindness Week

- Make a list of at least 7 acts of kindness, and choose one to do every day for the next week. You can think of your own ideas, or use any of the following examples:
 - Bake cookies for your friends or the local fire station.
 - Collect cans of food for a food bank.
 - Make a thank you card for your teacher.
 - Give someone a compliment.
 - Draw a picture or write a letter to a family member.
 - Ask someone new to play with you.
 - Pick up trash around your neighborhood (wear gloves and go with an adult).
 - Donate books and toys to a children's hospital or shelter.