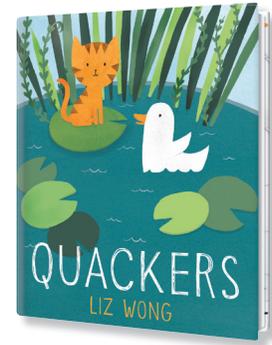




Jumpstart

Read for the Record®

READING GUIDE



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READING ALOUD WITH CHILDREN

is an amazing experience with a lasting impact. This shared experience provides an opportunity to connect and instill a love of learning and reading that will benefit children in kindergarten and beyond. By setting aside a few minutes to read with a child, you are sparking curiosity about the world.

Sharing a story can encourage children to:

- Increase the number of words in their vocabulary.
- Develop an understanding of story events.
- Learn about the themes in the book.
- Be motivated to become readers themselves.

Here are some tips

for reading with young children:

- Hold the book so that children can easily see the cover and the illustrations.
- Before you begin reading, introduce the story so that children learn about the important characters that they should pay attention to during the storybook reading. For example:
 - The title of this book is *Quackers*. The author and illustrator of this book is Liz Wong.
 - This cat (point to the cat) is named *Quackers*, and he is sitting on a lily pad, just like a duck. There are also ducks looking at him, and they look happy.
- While reading, summarize pages with lots of action. For example:
 - *Quackers* still thinks he's a duck even though he doesn't always act like one. *Quackers* does not like getting wet, does not like eating duckweed, and doesn't quack like the other ducks.
- Make predictions in the story using "I" statements like "I see" and "I think" to excite children's imagination and comprehension. For example:
 - I see *Quackers* is excited to meet the other cats. I think he's going to like the barn. Let's keep reading to find out.

- Show enthusiasm and read the story expressively.
- Listen for children's comments or questions and respond thoughtfully.
- Give extra information to expand children's understanding.
- Encourage conversation about the book. For example, you could ask:
 - How is *Quackers* different from the other cats and ducks?
- Ask questions to help children learn how to look closely at a story. You can use the book to help children think about their answers. For example:
 - Why do you think *Quackers* starts to feel right at home at the barn? Why do you think he starts to miss the duck pond?
- Make connections between story events and children's lives to deepen their understanding. For example:
 - At the beginning of the book, *Quackers* doesn't quite fit in with his friends. He feels different. Have you ever felt different from your friends?
 - By the end of the book, *Quackers* has found many things that make him happy, like chasing mice and playing with his duck friends at the pond. What do you do that makes you happy?

You can also use the following summary, themes, and vocabulary words to spark conversations while you read *Quackers* together.

STORY SUMMARY

This delightful story follows a kitten who grows up believing he is a duck – until the day he meets another kitten. What follows is a sweet tale about understanding, acceptance, and learning it's ok to be whoever you want to be.

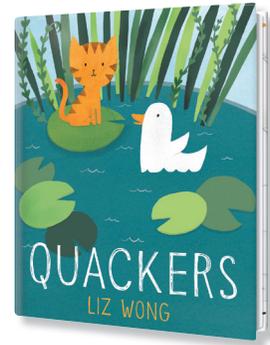




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STORY THEMES

Acceptance

Quackers is friends with both the ducks and the cats. The cats do not mind that he is different from the other cats and that he likes to do duck things, like play by the pond. The ducks do not mind that he is different from the other ducks and that he likes to do cat things, like drink milk and catch mice.

Identity

By the end of the book, Quackers realizes that he is both a duck *and* a cat. This makes him unique, or one of a kind. He is different from the others but is very happy.

Understanding

Throughout the book, both the ducks and the cats are nice to Quackers even though he is different. They do not try to change Quackers, or make him choose if he is a cat or a duck. The ducks and the cats like Quackers for who he is.

SUGGESTED VOCABULARY

While you read, explain words that might be new to children. These explanations can be verbal or more active, such as making a sound or gesture, pointing to an illustration, or using tone of voice to convey a word's meaning.

Amusing: makes someone smile or laugh

Communicating: getting and sending messages

Flock: a group of animals, usually birds

Options: choices

Overjoyed: very happy

Strange: unusual or weird

JUMPSTART'S READ FOR THE RECORD

Read. Connect. Succeed.

Read. Sign up to #ReadfortheRecord with us on October 19, 2017, to help shine a light on the importance of closing the kindergarten readiness gap by building early literacy and language skills for EVERY child.

Connect. Reading aloud with young children — whether in the classroom, at home, or in the community — builds literacy and language skills and provides positive reading experiences that instill a love of reading.

Succeed. Children with strong literacy and language skills are more likely to succeed in kindergarten, and a love for reading can foster a love of learning that will benefit children for years to come.

