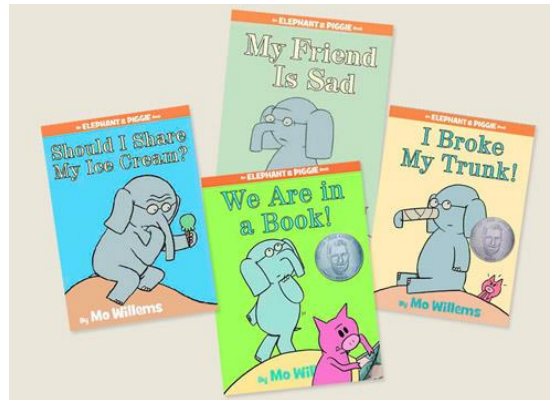


Book Guide

Milwaukee Public Library Summer Reading Program



Book Title:	Elephant & Piggie (any book in the series)
Author:	Mo Willems
Illustrator:	Mo Willems

Recommended Audience	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> K5	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1 st	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2 nd	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 3 rd	<input type="checkbox"/> 4 th	<input type="checkbox"/> 5 th	<input type="checkbox"/> 6 th
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Length of Time to Read:

One sitting (5-10 minutes)

Summary:

Meet Gerald the Elephant and his friend, Piggie. Kids are sure to enjoy these loveable characters and stories, told in a comic book style by celebrated children's author, Mo Willems.

Before Reading (Create Interest):

- 1) Cover the title of the book and ask the students to look at the illustration on the front cover. What do they see? Who are the characters? How is each character feeling?
- 2) Ask the students if they recognize the characters on the front cover. Have they ever read an Elephant & Piggie book before? Have the students share what they know about Gerald and Piggie. What is Gerald like? What is Piggie like?
- 3) Ask the students if they have read any other books by Mo Willems (the Pigeon series, the Knufflebunny series, That is NOT a Good Idea, etc.). Ask them if they have ever read a comic book. Open the book and show students the "speech bubbles" that Mo Willems uses to indicate when a character is talking. The gray bubbles show us when Gerald is talking, and the pink bubbles show us when Piggie is talking.

During Reading (Discussion/Questions):

- Have the students identify how each character is feeling at different points in the story.
- Have the students join in and say parts of the story that repeat.
- Have the students make predictions about what will happen next.
- Point out elements such as exclamation points (excitement) and large font (louder voice). Ask the students if they know what these mean and demonstrate what kind of voice the character might be using when we see these.



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After Reading:

Ask the students to give a thumbs up or a thumbs down to rate the story.

Why did they like it? Why didn't they like it?

Were any of the students surprised by the ending?

Ask the students what they think would happen next if the story continued.

Ask the students to think about someone who is their friend. Have they ever had a disagreement with their friend? How did they work it out?

STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math) Connection:

- 1) Because the Elephant & Piggie books are written using "speech bubbles," they can easily be turned into a fun and simple Reader's Theater activity. After reading the story aloud once or twice, ask for one student to come up and play Gerald and another student to come up and play Piggie. The student playing Gerald will read the words inside the gray bubbles, and the student playing Piggie will read the words inside the pink bubbles. Help the students if there are some words they aren't familiar with. Encourage them to use fun, expressive voices for their characters. Repeat this activity, switching roles and giving other kids a chance to perform.
- 2) Challenge the students to create their own Elephant & Piggie story using the three templates included! Mo Willems is both an author and an illustrator. Encourage the kids to practice being both a writer and an artist by adding color and dialogue to their story. When they are finished, ask them to come up with a title for their story that will get other kids excited to read it. Talk about what makes a good title (not too long, makes someone curious to know more, doesn't spoil the ending, etc.). Combine Options 1 and 2 by having the kids perform their own stories as Reader's Theater.
- 3) Talk about the difference between a noun (person, place, or thing) and a verb (action word). Ask the kids to come up with nouns and verbs to help you fill in the Elephant & Piggie Mad Lib (included). Read the finished Mad Lib aloud to the class and prepare to laugh!

Ideas for younger or older children

- 1) Very young students may need help filling in the speech bubbles on their Elephant & Piggie story. They can come up with the dialogue while an adult or older student writes it in the speech bubbles.
- 2) Older students can create their own Elephant & Piggie comic or work on a new comic from scratch. Have the students identify other elements of a comic book or graphic novel (speech bubbles, thought bubbles, sound effects, action, adventure, heroes and villains, etc.)
- 3) Older students can work in pairs to complete the Mad Lib and read it back to each other. You could also challenge them to create their own Mad Lib (write a short story, erase some of the nouns and verbs, and then have another student fill in the blanks).

Additional Notes: This lesson plan can be used with any Elephant & Piggie book. If the kids enjoy the book, encourage them to look for other books by Mo Willems at their nearest library. You can find other great activities to go along with the Elephant & Piggie series here: <https://www.teachingbooks.net/>

