



MISS BINDERGARTEN AND THE BEST FRIENDS

AUTHOR: JOSEPH SLATE

ILLUSTRATOR: ASHELY WOLFF

**** REMEMBER: HAVE FUN AND THE KIDS WILL TOO! ****

OVERVIEW

ABOUT THE BOOK

Emily and Vicky are best friends. They both wear yellow boots. They both like red hats. They play all the same games. They declare they're twins. But their classmates correct them. How can they be twins when they don't look anything alike? (Scholastic)

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Joseph Slate, a native West Virginian, has always loved to paint and write. Mr. Slate is professor of art emeritus at Kenyon College in Gambier, Ohio, where he taught for 30 years. He now lives in Silver Spring, Maryland, with his wife, Patty. A Marine Air Corps veteran, he and his wife have set foot on all seven continents and traveled in 39 countries. They have lived in both Japan and Italy. (penguinrandomhouse.com)

ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

I am a children's book author and illustrator in San Francisco, CA. I have lived in the same neighborhood and house for almost 18 years and am lucky enough to work right upstairs in an extra bedroom. I am married to a newspaper reporter and the mother of two teenage boys and a border collie named Lucy. I have created over 40 books, all done in Northern CA, but set all over the world, including in my home state of Vermont, where I had a wonderful country childhood. I still love to be outdoors, whether gardening, watching birds or hiking and skiing. (amazon.com)

THE READ ALOUD

BEFORE READING

Use these before reading the story to help students activate background knowledge and make predictions:

- What animals do you see on the cover?
- Do animals really wear clothes?
- What do you think these animals are doing?
- Let's read the story to find out what's happening.

MISS BINDERGARTEN
AND THE BEST FRIENDS

TOPICS & THEMES:

- Friendship
- Colors

Tips for every book!

POWER PHRASES:

I WONDER...

I NOTICE...

TELL ME MORE...

DIGGING DEEPER:

"Tell me more, why do you think that?"

"How do you know that?"

"Why do you think they feel like that?"

"Interesting, did you notice anything else?"

DURING THE STORY

Use these while reading the story to help students interpret the action and content.

- (p. 4-5) Why do the students call their teacher Mrs. B?
- (p. 6-7) If you think Emily is the elephant's name, put up one finger. If you think Vicky is the elephant's name, put up two fingers. Hmm. I wonder which is which.
- (p. 8) Oh...it looks like the elephant's name is Emily.
- (p. 9) What does it mean to "match"?
- (p. 12-13) The boots are alike because they're yellow. How are they different?
- (p. 17) Raise your hand if you know what "twins" means.
- (p. 29) What other ways are Emily and Vicky different? (different animals, different sizes, etc.)

AFTER READING

Use these after reading the story to help students understand what they just read.

- Is this story non-fiction (facts) or fiction (pretend)?
- Do best friends sometimes like different things?
- Can you have more than one best friend?

BRINGING THE BOOK TO LIFE!

- (p.4-5) If you know what kind of animals are in this illustration, put your finger on your nose. (Reader: have 5 or so students tell you what animal they see; encourage students to each name an animal that has not yet been named).
- (p. 8-9) If you love blue too, clap your hands.
- (p. 12-13) If you love yellow too, say "yay!"

COOPERATIVE LEARNING

- Emily and Vicky have worn red, yellow, and blue clothing. What other colors from the rainbow could they wear?
- Turn to your neighbor and work together to figure out the six colors of the rainbow

EXTENSION ACTIVITY

- Find illustrations that have similarities and differences (pairs of animals, children, houses, etc). Have the students work in pairs to make a two-columned list of things that are alike, and things that are different.
- Talk about the things that friends do with one another. Have students draw a picture of themselves and a friend doing something they would like to do together.