



MISS SMITH'S INCREDIBLE STORYBOOK

AUTHOR/ILLUSTRATOR: MICHAEL GARLAND

See a video of the book read aloud here: [Miss Smith Incredible Storybook](#)

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

OVERVIEW

ABOUT THE BOOK

“When Zack meets his second-grade teacher, Miss Smith, he can tell right away that her class will be different. But he has no idea just how different it will be! Miss Smith has a knack for telling tales when she reads from her incredible book, the stories literally spring to life! Then one day Miss Smith is late for school. The principal takes over and things get out of hand. The classroom is swarming with storybook characters from princesses to pirates to the three little pigs? All it takes is one spectacular teacher.” ([Amazon](#))

ABOUT THE AUTHOR/ILLUSTRATOR

“Michael Garland is the award-winning and bestselling author and illustrator of more than 30 children’s books, including *Americana Adventure* and *Miss Smith and the Haunted Library*. His *Miss Smith’s Incredible Storybook* won the California and Delaware State Reading Awards. He lives in Patterson, New York, with his wife and their three children.” ([Michael Garland](#))

THE READ ALOUD

BEFORE READING

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

- I wonder who Miss Smith is and why she is surrounded by all of these characters.
- Do you think this will be fiction or non-fiction? Why?
- I wonder why she is wearing this pin and what it means.
- What do you think is unique about Miss Smith?
- Listen to the story and see if you recognize any of the characters from the cover.
- Introduce the title and author.

DURING THE STORY

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

- (p.2) I wonder what Zach will think of his new teacher.
- (p.6) Are the children really in the middle of the story and why?
- (p.10) What will happen when the principal is finished reading?
- (p.14) I wonder why all of the characters are still out of the book.

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TOPICS & THEMES:

- Fairy tales
- Moral of the story
- Friendship
- Perseverance
- Ingenuity

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?”

- (p.18) Why is Zack worried and how is he feeling?
- (p.22) How do you think the class is going to handle this new problem?
- (p.26) I wonder how the illustrations match the words on this page.
- (p.30) What do you think the firemen would do to help?

AFTER READING

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

- Why do you think the author chose to write this story?
- Are there any parts of the story that could be real?

BRINGING THE BOOK TO LIFE!

- What parts of the book would you want Miss Smith to read aloud? Why?
- Has there ever been a book that made you feel like the characters were real?
- Why do you think some books make us feel like we are inside a story?

COOPERATIVE LEARNING

- Have everyone share what qualities someone reading a book aloud should use to make the story exciting for the listeners. Challenge them to use these techniques when they next read aloud!

SMALL-GROUP IDEAS

1. DISCUSSION ACTIVITY

- Conduct a picture walk and let the children discuss their favorite part of the story.
- How would you feel if you were in Miss Smith's classroom?
- What could have happened if Miss Smith didn't return to school on the same day?
- Can you remember what characters appeared in the book and what fairy tales they represent?
- What book would you read if the characters really did come alive? Why would you want them to come alive? What would you do? What would you ask them? (Think of some classic examples to help them with this if they are struggling).
- Is there something you can do to make a story even more exciting when someone reads aloud to you?

SUGGESTED OPTIONAL ACTIVITY:

- Have the children take turns orally retelling the story from the beginning, middle, and ending. They can either read the words on the page or make up their own! (This will help unconfident readers not to shy away from this activity).

2. WRITING ACTIVITY

- Write what would happen at school today if your favorite character turned up in your classroom.

3. EXTENSION ACTIVITY

Write these words from the book on the whiteboard: arrive, waves, dragon, tumbled, screeching, swashbuckling, pouring, knight, amazement, ruffled, pirate, ship, fright, crowded, adjusted, tale, adventure, pounce, chaos, spellbound, breeze, grinned, yank, pleaded, skidded.

Each child can take a turn coming up with a definition for one of the words from the list above - the others have 3 guesses to work out which word they are describing. Be prepared to help the one making up the definition for some of the trickier words (in both reading the words and making up the definition).

COMMON CORE LINKS

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.5, 2.6.