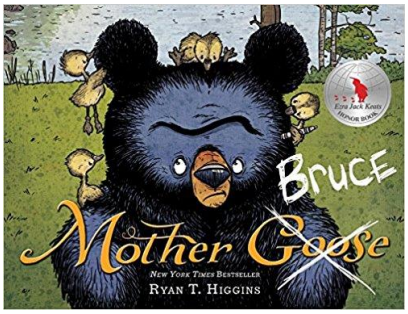

MOTHER BRUCE

AUTHOR: RYAN T. HIGGINS

ILLUSTRATOR: RYAN T. HIGGINS

See a video of the book read aloud here: Mother Bruce

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

OVERVIEW

ABOUT THE BOOK

Bruce is a grumpy bear who likes to eat eggs. He also likes to cook. He's trying a new recipe that calls for goose eggs, honey, and fish. Using the forest as his grocery store, Bruce gathers the ingredients he needs. He sets the eggs on the stove to hard boil, but instead of hard-boiled eggs, he is surprised by four brand new goslings. He is now their mommy. They follow him everywhere, which is very annoying to this grumpy bear. Bruce tries so many ways to get rid of them as they grow up, failing at each. Finally, he accepts his situation and now every winter, he migrates with them to Miami Beach, Florida.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR/ILLUSTRATOR

Ryan is both the author and the illustrator - a multi-talented man who lives in southern Maine with 3 dogs, 1 gecko, 1 tortoise, 1 son, 1 daughter, and 1 wife. His other books, companions to Mother Bruce, are *Hotel Bruce* and *Be Quiet!*

THE READ ALOUD

BEFORE READING

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

- What does the big X on the front cover of the book mean?
- How does the bear feel?
- I wonder why the goslings are hanging onto the bear.
- What do you think will happen in this story?
- Looking at the cover, where do you think Bruce lives?
- Who/what is Mother Goose?

DURING THE STORY

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

Emergent Literacy (Comprehension - connections to world/self - print referencing - open ended questions - phonological awareness).

- (p.2-3) Why is the word NOT written in capital letters?
- (p.6) I think Bruce using a shopping cart in the forest is humorous, very funny. Why is that so funny?

MOTHER BRUCE

TOPICS & THEMES:

- **Imprinting**
- **Cooking**
- **Persistence**
- **Migration**
- **Feelings**
- **Adoption**

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.8) Do bears cook? Is this fiction (made up) or non-fiction (facts)
- (p.10) Did you know that ducks and geese follow the first thing they see when they come out of the egg, even if it's a human?
- (p.14) As we read, let's count how many different ways Bruce tries to get rid of the goslings.
- (p.14) Where do you think the goslings' mom has gone?
- (p.23) What does it mean to "make the best of it"?
- (p.24-25) Look at these two pages and how can you tell that Bruce is working hard?
- (p.26) What does "pesky" mean?
- (p.28-29) What is migration?
- (p.38) Why does the turtle call the goose "mama"?

AFTER READING

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

- Is Bruce still grumpy at the end of the story?
- What do you think happens next?
- Have Bruce and the geese become a family? How?

BRINGING THE BOOK TO LIFE!

- Are you ever grumpy? What does you do when you're grumpy?
- Do you know any stories of dogs adopting cats or deer, and cats adopting rabbits? Do you think they grow up together? If so, would the cat or deer act like the dog when it grows up? Would a rabbit mew like a cat?

COOPERATIVE LEARNING

- We learn a lot from the people who we live with. What do you think Bruce can teach his goslings? Is there anything Bruce can't teach them? Turn to your partner and teach each other to fly.

SMALL-GROUP IDEAS

DISCUSSION ACTIVITY

- If you know how to hatch an egg, put your hand on your head.
- How do you make a hardboiled egg?
- What makes a family a family?

WRITING ACTIVTY

- Bruce is a grumpy bear. He doesn't like much. Go back through the book and make a list (a column for "like" and a column for "don't like") of what Bruce likes and what he doesn't like.

EXTENSION ACTIVITY

- Trace the migration of birds on a global map or a globe. What cities are on the path?
- Hard boil some eggs – then eat them.
- Follow a simple recipe

COMMON CORE LINKS

Common Core links: CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.K.1, K.3, K.4, K.6, K.7, K.10