



# WINSTON AND GEORGE

AUTHOR: JOHN MILLER

ILLUSTRATOR: GIULIANO CUCCO

See a video of the book read aloud here: [Winston and George](#)

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

## OVERVIEW

### ABOUT THE BOOK

Best friends George, a crocodile, and Winston, a crocodile bird, take symbiosis to a new level. Winston perches on George's snout and alerts him whenever he spies a fish; then George dives deep in the water, taking the fish to shore "where they enjoyed many a delicious meal together." Despite their mutual affection, Winston can't resist playing pranks on George and the other crocodiles, such as shouting "Danger!" just to see the reptiles make big splashes in the water. When Winston takes his pranking too far, and George is placed at real risk, it results in a true test of their friendship. ([publishersweekly.org](#))

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

John Miller spent many of his grade school years with friends, tramping about the woods, lakes, rivers and swamps of Morris County, New Jersey. These adventures inspired his children's books and articles about beavers, trout, starlings and other animals for many magazines. ([books.google.com](#))

### ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

Giuliano Cucco was an artist and illustrator. He and his wife were killed by a motor scooter driver while in a pedestrian crossing in Rome in 2006. He is survived by a son and two grandchildren ([books.google.com](#))

## THE READ ALOUD

### BEFORE READING

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

- What type of animals do you see on the cover?
- Where do you think the story takes place? What hints do you see in the illustration?
- Do you predict this book is fiction or non-fiction? Why do you think that?

## WINSTON AND GEORGE

### TOPICS & THEMES:

- Friendship
- Symbiosis

### *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

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

- (p. 3) What does perch mean? What animals perch?
- (p. 11) I wonder what a prank is. What do you think?
- (p. 24) Why do you think DIVE is written in all capital letters? Why did George get frightened? Let me hear you say DIVE loudly and with expression!
- (p. 25) Why do you think the crocodiles want to help George?
- (p. 33) Do you think Winston will gobble up George? Why do you think that?

## AFTER READING

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

- What was the problem in the book? How did it get solved?
- What do you think the author wanted us to learn from reading this book?
- Is this story fiction or non-fiction? What makes you say that?

## BRINGING THE BOOK TO LIFE!

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- (p. 5) What does plunge mean? Can you act out how you would plunge into water?

## COOPERATIVE LEARNING

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- (p. 19) Turn and talk to a neighbor. Do you think Winston should forgive George? Why or why not do you think so? Share back to whole group.

## SMALL-GROUP IDEAS

### 1. DISCUSSION ACTIVITY

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- Conduct a picture walk and have the students retell the story.
- Do you think the pranks George pulled were funny? Why or why not?
- Has anyone pulled a prank on you? What was it? How did you feel afterward?
- (p. 20) Look at the illustration. How do you think Winston is feeling? Why do you think that?
- Is there anything in the story that could be real? What?
- Do you think crocodiles and birds could really be friends? (Read the paragraphs at end of the book).
- The term symbiosis means the living together of two dissimilar organisms, as in mutualism, commensalism, or parasitism.) Can you think of other animals not mentioned in this book that have symbiotic relationships?

#### **Suggested Optional Activity:**

- Download to tablet or print symbiotic relationships to share with children (Reader: google “symbiotic relationships” images).

### 2. WRITING ACTIVITY

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- Write a note from George to Winston apologizing for his pranks.

### 3. EXTENSION ACTIVITY

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- Draw and color a picture of the jungle where Winston and George live.