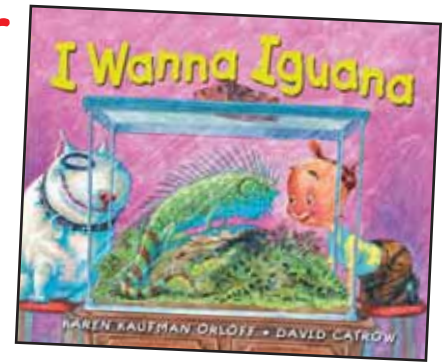


Read-Aloud Family Event



I Wanna Iguana

by Karen Kaufman Orloff
illustrated by David Catrow



➔ Book Summary for Facilitator

- ★ Alex desperately wants to adopt his friend Mikey's pet iguana. Through a series of amusing notes between him and his mom, Alex pleads his case for the iguana. This exchange of notes is delightfully entertaining, as Alex eventually wins over his mother. Just about every family has experienced a child's desire to get a pet — the child wants it terribly and promises to care for it responsibly. Realistically, most parents know that they quite likely will have another living being dependent upon their care.

➔ Set the Stage

- ★ Set up a comfortable chair for the reader with plenty of space around it for the children to gather. Have chairs or room for parents to stand behind the circle of kids.

➔ During Read-Aloud

Begin by asking:

- Has anyone ever asked for a pet?
- What were the pets that you wanted?
- What kinds of things are involved in caring for a pet that might influence the decision?



- ★ Show the cover and point to the title as you read it.
- ★ Allow children and parents to comment about caring for a pet iguana.
- ★ Mention that this boy uses a special way to plead his case for getting his friend's pet iguana. "Let's see what that might be."
- ★ After you read the first message that Alex writes his mom, ask if anyone has ever used a note or letter to ask for something.
- ★ Discuss briefly and even identify places that families often correspond, such as notes in lunch boxes, a message board, and notes by the phone.
- ★ Take time to talk about ways in which this might help Alex get what he wants.



➔ Read-Aloud Discussion and Wrap-Up

- ★ Conduct a brief discussion by asking children to repeat the story in sequence.
- ★ Encourage families to get this book and read it together at home. This would be a fun book to use for a paired reading where a child reads Alex's letters and the parent reads Mom's. On another occasion, try trading parts. It's sure to become a favorite!

Distribute the bookmarks and *The Family Guide to the Book Fair* to all parents. These can be found at www.scholastic.com/bookfairs/readaloud. Let parents know that these great tools offer reading strategies, tips, and information about how young children learn.

Connecting
Connecting story events to the children's own experiences helps them understand and relate personally to the people and events in the story.

Experience
This discussion continues to help children connect the story to their own personal experiences as well as provides an example of a useful type of print.

Paired Reading
Paired reading is a strategy where both parents and children take turns reading aloud together. This can help children learn to read by improving vocabulary, accuracy, and comprehension. It also can help them enjoy reading and become more confident about reading.