

Best Friends: The Diaries of Worm and Spider

by Doreen Cronin

Take a glimpse inside the world of two best friends, Worm and Spider. Their diaries are full of stories, adventures and everyday obstacles they must overcome.



Read

Before:

Introduce the book and tell the children a little bit about it. Follow with a comment or question that is related to the story such as, *What is one thing you like to do with your best friend?* Encourage a discussion so the children can comment, ask questions, and express their feelings. Set the stage for listening by asking an "I wonder" statement based on the cover illustration.

- I wonder what Worm said or did to make Spider laugh?

During:

Encourage the children to comment on the illustrations, ask questions, and predict what will happen next in the story. Children gain confidence and a sense of achievement through being able to correctly predict how a story will end. Point out "rare words" (e.g., those words that are not commonly used in every day conversation) and help the children relate the meaning in a way that makes sense to them.

Rare Words in *Best Friends: The Diaries of Worm and Spider*

- twisted: having one end turned in the opposite direction to the other
- swallowed: pass food down the throat
- soaked: make somebody or something wet
- Hopscotch: game of hopping over squares
- thud: dull heavy sound
- Secret Service Agent: an undercover, private security officer
- cavities: a hole in a tooth
- grubby: slightly dirty
- maggot: a young fly
- molted: to lose feathers, hair or skin and to grow replacements
- allegiance: devoted support for a person, cause or group
- dangerous: likely to cause harm or injury
- nightmare: bad, frightening or upsetting dream

After:

Discuss the story. Ask questions...

- What is one of the things that Worm's mom tells him to remember?
- What can't Worm do that Spider can do?
- Why did Worm eat his homework?
- Who taught Worm about good manners?
- What job does Worm want to do when he grows up?
- What did Spider learn in gym class?
- What did Spider learn on Safety Day at school?
- Why did Spider lose his old skin?
- Who made Fly sad?
- Where did Grampa go on vacation?
- What did Grampa say is the secret to a long, happy life?
- What is one of the things that scare Spider?



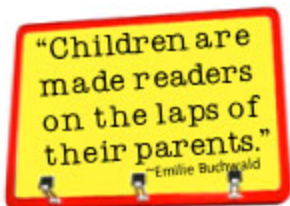
Do

Picture Journals

Discuss some of the children's favorite parts of the story. Ask questions about their favorite memories or things they like to do. Hand out a copy of the My Diary sheet to each child. Have each child draw a picture of their favorite memory or of something that they like to do. When they are finished, have the children discuss their picture. In the space below the picture, write (in their exact words) the story/description of their drawing. Repeat this process several times throughout the week.

My Name: _____

My Diary: Day _____



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