

Laughing, Learning, Reading and Writing



Classroom-Tested Ways to Connect
the Funny Bone with the Brain Bone

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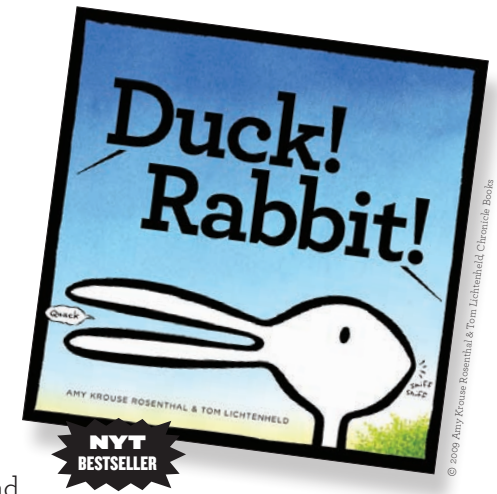
with educational and classroom material courtesy of

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Duck!Rabbit!

BY AMY KROUSE ROSENTHAL AND
TOM LICHTENHELD (CHRONICLE, 2009)



Reading-Related Teaching Ideas

- **Readers Theater** Invite students to perform this book using two voices.
- **Mental Images** Ask students why they think the two children had different ideas/opinions about the image. Relate their thinking to the idea that mental images are different because the reader's schema or background knowledge is different.
- **Consider Different Perspectives** Read and discuss other picture books written from different perspectives (see titles listed below). Make text-to-text connections between or among the various titles.
- **Build Vocabulary** Discuss the meaning of the words *distinctly* and *wading* with your students.

Writing-Related Teaching Ideas

- **Think About Point of View** Invite students to write about two different animals from two different points of view or to continue with their own story where the book leaves off.
- **Read Like a Writer** Notice the clever design of the barcode on the back of the book.

Books to Pair with Duck! Rabbit!

The Black Book of Colors (Cottin, 2006/2008)
No! That's Wrong! (Ji & Xu, 2008)

Additional Teaching Ideas

- **Science** After looking at the end papers of Duck! Rabbit!, read this book about clouds, It Looked Like Spilt Milk (Shaw, 1992).

For additional ideas, you can find a Teacher's Guide and Poster at
www.chroniclebooks.com/duckrabbit

Read Like a Writer

Reading aloud *is* teaching writing, even if no writing activity follows the reading.

Vicki Spandel, *Creating Young Writers* (2008)

What to look for in the books you enjoy reading aloud:

- interesting uses of language
- interesting punctuation usage
- text structure
- repeated lines
- word play
- onomatopoeia
- print and illustrations

What to say . . .

Source: Choice Words
by Peter H. Johnston (*Stenhouse*, 2004)

“Oh, I love that line!”

“Did anyone notice

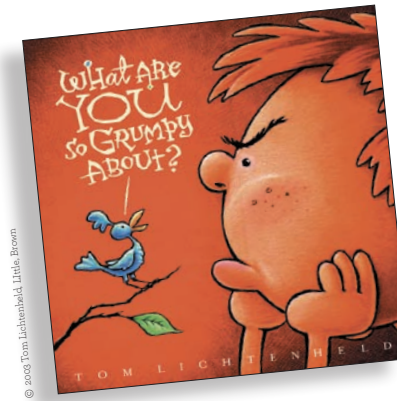
- any interesting words?
- any new punctuation?
- any new ways of arranging the words on the page?

“Are there any favorite words or phrases, or ones you wish you had written?”

“Why would an author do something like that?”

“How else could the author have done that?”

“Why did the author choose that word?”



What Are You So Grumpy About?

BY TOM LICHTENHELD
(LITTLE BROWN, 2003)

Reading-Related Teaching Ideas

Make Meaningful Connections When teaching students how to make meaningful connections between texts discuss the similarities and differences between *Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day* (Viorst, 1972) and *What Are You So Grumpy About?*

Writing-Related Teaching Ideas

Sure Cures for Grumpiness Use the ideas on the endpapers to spark a discussion about “Sure Cures for Grumpiness.” Consider making a bulletin board of the students’ sure cures to post in your classroom for future reference.

Additional Teaching Ideas

Social Studies Read this book aloud at the beginning of the school year to spark a discussion about feelings. Then, use a Grump-o-Meter to discuss the intensity of angry feelings such as pouty, grumpy, angry, furious, and so on.

A book to pair with *What Are You So Grumpy About?*

When Sophie Gets Angry—Really, Really Angry
(Bang, 1999).

This book also leads to discussion about what to do when you get angry and different ways to cool off.





★ Booklist & Kirkus Reviews, starred reviews

Bridget's Beret

BY TOM LICHTENHELD
(HENRY HOLT, 2010)



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Reading-Related Teaching Ideas

Infer BIG IDEAS After reading this story for enjoyment, initiate a conversation about the theme or “big idea” of the book.

Writing-Related Teaching Ideas

Inspire Writers Many of the Bridget-approved ideas for “How to Start Your Art,” found in the back matter of the book, can be easily adapted for writers. Create a chart with your students to post in the room.

How to Start Your Art	How to Ignite Your Writing
Make faces.	Make up a funny character; introduce him/her to your readers.
Paint lots of dots.	Write lots of words, and then play with them and see what happens.
When all else fails, use red!	When all else fails, READ!
Get your head in the clouds.	Get your head in the clouds; use your imagination.
Look at things differently.	Write about things in a different way, from a different point of view. Use Duck! Rabbit! to illustrate this point.

Books to pair with *Bridget's Beret*
A Day With No Crayons (Rusch, 2007)
Ish (Reynolds, 2004)

Shark vs. Train

BY CHRIS BARTON & TOM LICHTENHELD
(LITTLE, BROWN, 2010)



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Reading-Related Teaching Ideas

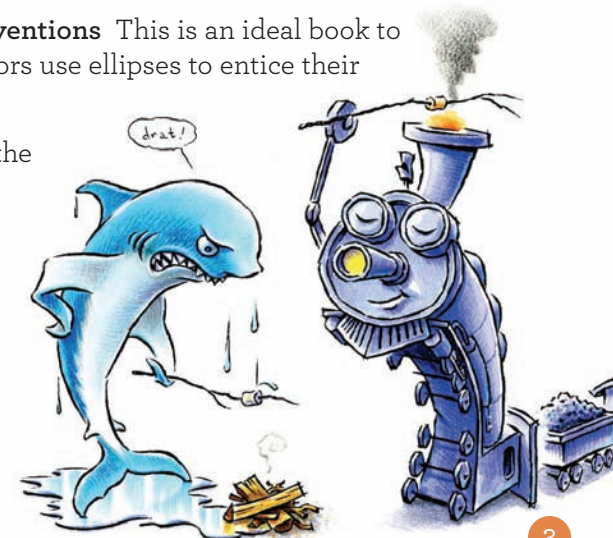
- **“Read” the Illustrations** Point out that the reader must begin “reading” the illustrations before the title page or they will miss out on the fact that the story is about two boys each playing with a toy.
- **Use Illustrations to Infer** Readers must infer from the illustrations which toy “won” each challenge. Discuss the clues in the illustrations that will help your students infer.
- **Readers Theater** Invite students to perform this book using two voices.

Writing-Related Teaching Ideas

- **Write a Sequel** Invite students to select two other toys and create a sequel to *Shark vs. Train* by writing about different places, races, or contests that those two particular toys might have together.
- **Read Like a Writer for Conventions** This is an ideal book to highlight the ways that authors use ellipses to entice their readers to turn the page.
- **Read Like a Writer** Notice the caboose’s humorous antics!

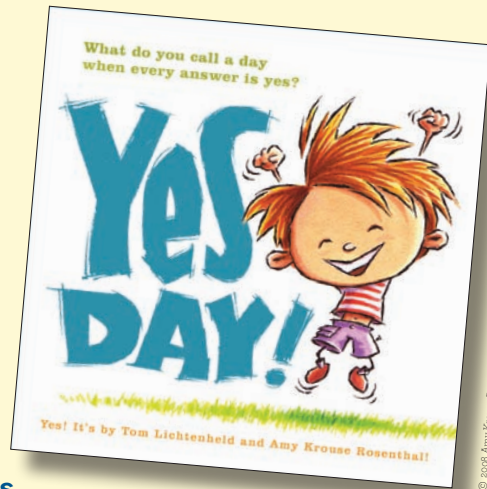
A book to pair with *Shark vs. Train*
Let's Do Nothing (Fucile, 2009)

Shark and Train have a marshmallow-roasting contest.



Yes Day!

BY AMY KROUSE ROSENTHAL
AND TOM LICHTENHELD
(HARPERCOLLINS, 2009)



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Reading-Related Teaching Ideas

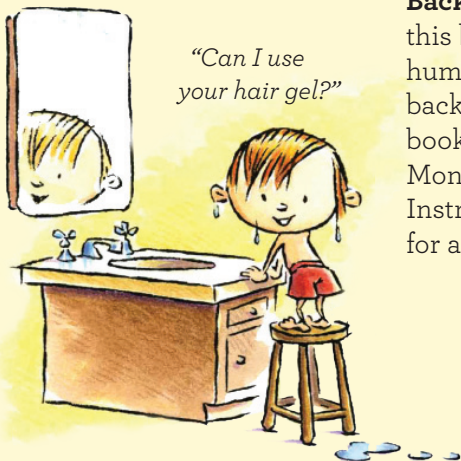
“Read” the Illustrations Before reading, highlight the fact that the reader must begin reading before the title page. Another author/illustrator that often does this is Steven Kellogg.

Use Illustrations to Infer Readers must infer from the illustrations whether the boy’s request was granted. Discuss the clues in the illustrations that will help your students infer.

Writing-Related Teaching Ideas

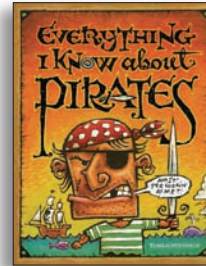
My Very Own Yes Day! Invite students to write their own Yes Day! book for their families and display their polished books at Open House or Curriculum Night.

Read Like a Writer Enjoy reading the endpapers that display a calendar of ways that parents say, “No!”



Back Cover Blurbs After reading this book for enjoyment, point out the humorous back cover blurb. Search the backs of other books for blurbs. (Tom’s books usually include these). See Month-by-Month Trait-Based Writing Instruction (Walther & Phillips, 2009) for a mini-lesson on blurbs.

More books by Tom Lichtenheld



EVERYTHING I KNOW ABOUT PIRATES

“Ingenious!”
– Kirkus Reviews

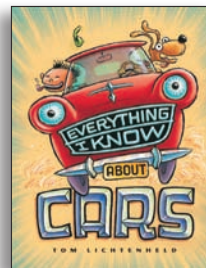
“...will shiver the timbers and tickle the funny-bones of those salts, both young and old.”
– Publishers Weekly



the OK book

With Amy Krouse Rosenthal

“A sweet reminder to engage in life just for the sake of it.”
–The New York Times



EVERYTHING I KNOW ABOUT CARS

“A gassed-up laugh-fest that will keep readers roaring back for more.”
– School Library Journal



IT'S NOT FAIR!

With Amy Krouse Rosenthal

A great read-along for pre-K to 1st grade students



EVERYTHING I KNOW ABOUT MONSTERS

“Sure to be a hit with kids.”
– School Library Journal



WHAT'S WITH THIS ROOM?



See all of Tom’s books and get free activity guides at tomlichtenheld.com

Presentations & Workshops by Tom Lichtenheld

Tom is available for appearances at schools, libraries and seminars. He loves to get students excited about books, reading, writing and art.

“Tom has the qualities you want in a speaker for children: funny, engaging, energetic, and certainly motivating.”

– Esme Raji Codell,
Author & Certified Readologist

Get complete information about Tom’s appearances at: tomlichtenheld.com

