

Amos & Boris

by William Steig

About the book

Animal Exploration

Begin a discussion about the characteristics of mammals (e.g., mammals nurse their young, mammals are warm-blooded, mammals have hair). Ask students to compare and contrast the characteristics of Amos and Boris, and to determine if they are mammals. Then have students choose a mammal or an ocean animal to research. If students have access to the Internet, Web sites such as the Monterey Bay Aquarium's E-Quarium (www.mbayaq.org) and the Birmingham Zoo (www.birminghamzoo.com) will offer them information on a wide range of animal species. Students should produce a written report about their animal and share their research with the class to teach them about a variety of animals.

Faraway Friends

Amos and Boris missed each other while they were apart. Discuss methods of staying in touch with a special person who is far away (e.g., phone calls, e-mail, letter-writing). Review the format of a friendly letter, and ask students to compose a letter and send it to a special person. Students may enjoy sharing the response to their letters with the class.

Packing Up

Review what Amos brings with him on his ocean journey. Then discuss the specific items necessary for a variety of excursions. What do you need if you are going hiking? What if you are going fishing? What if you are going on safari in Africa? In small groups, have students choose a destination and create a list of appropriate items for their journey. Each group's list should be presented to, and critiqued by, the rest of the class.

Mighty Mouse

Read to the class a version of Aesop's "The Lion and the Mouse." Ask them to compare and contrast this book and the fable. To demonstrate graphically how the two stories overlap, record their similarities and differences on a Venn diagram.

For more information visit www.williamsteig.com

Guide created by Sue Ornstein, June 2000