

Frida Kahlo and Her Animalitos

READ ALOUD GUIDE

Themes: Animals, Culture and Heritage, Creativity, Self-Expression

Book Brief: This book tells the story of artist Frida Kahlo and the animals that inspired her. Known for her bold self-portraits, Frida celebrated Mexican culture and the female form. The book explores how her beloved pets reflected her personality and influenced her vibrant, imaginative artwork.

Author:
Monica Brown

Illustrator:
John Parra



BEFORE READING

The Cover: Have students make predictions about the story based on the cover.

The Pictures: Take a brief picture walk and ask students what they notice about Frida.

Prior Knowledge: Ask students, "Have you ever had a pet or a favorite animal? How do you think animals can inspire art or creativity?"

Vocabulary: Frontload Tier 2 words using the accompanying [Vocabulary Guide](#).

Purpose for Reading: "As you read, think about how Frida Kahlo's animals were special to her and how they influenced her paintings. How did they help express who she was?"

DURING READING

Check for understanding & make connections:

- What was Frida's home like, and how did her childhood shape who she became?
- How did Frida first become interested in art, and what events led her to start creating?
- What challenges did Frida face as a child, and how did they impact her life and art?

AFTER READING

Our Purpose: How did Frida's artwork express who she was?

Extending Our Thinking: Using [RIF's Writing Template](#), Have students create a self-portrait that includes an animal they feel connected to. They can choose a real pet, a favorite animal, or one that represents their personality. Then, have them write why they chose that animal and how it reflects who they are, just like Frida did in her art.

If your students enjoyed this book...

- Encourage them to continue to discuss it and refer to it in other lessons and conversations.
- Let them explore more about Women's History with the [Women's History Month Collection](#).