

The Rhino Who Swallowed a Storm



READ ALOUD GUIDE

Themes: Friendship, Courage, Growth

Book Brief: When Mica Mouse is frightened by a thunderstorm, Papa Mouse comforts her by reading a story. The story follows a rhino who, after swallowing a storm of sadness, embarks on a healing journey with the help of caring friends, teaching both Rhino and Mica that support and kindness can bring light to dark times.

Author:

LeVar Burton & Susan Schaefer Bernardo

Illustrator:

Courtenay Fletcher

BEFORE READING

The Cover: Ask students to make a prediction about the story based on the cover.

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

Prior Knowledge: Ask, “Have you ever been afraid? What happened?”

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

Purpose for Reading: “As we read, think about how Rhino’s feelings change and what helps him feel better.”

DURING READING

Check for understanding & make connections:

- Why is Papa Mouse reading Mica Mouse a story?
- Why did the Rhino swallow the storm?
- What do you think will happen next?
- Who are some friends Rhino meets? How do they help him?

AFTER READING

Our Purpose: How did Rhino’s feelings change by the end of the story? What made him feel better?

Extending Our Thinking: Have students create a “feelings storm” drawing to represent a time they felt upset or overwhelmed. Tell them to draw what helped them feel better. Encourage students to discuss amongst one another how we can help others when they are upset.

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 the topic by reading other books with similar themes, structure, characters, or content.