



Olive, The Other Reindeer

READ ALOUD GUIDE

Themes: Determination, Being Yourself, Helping Others

Book Brief: A hilarious story about Olive the dog, who mishears a famous Christmas song and believes she's a reindeer, then sets off to help Santa on Christmas Eve!

Author:
Vivian Walsh

Illustrator:
J. Otto Seibold

BEFORE READING

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

The Pictures: Take a quick picture walk and ask students what they notice about the illustrations.

Prior Knowledge: Ask, "Have you ever misheard something and thought it meant something different? What happened?" (Optional: Think-Pair-Share)

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

Purpose for Reading: "As we read, think about the message or lesson of this story. What can we learn from Olive's adventure?"

DURING READING

Check for understanding & make connections:

- What does Olive mishear in the Christmas song?
- Why does Olive go to the North Pole?
- How do Santa and the reindeer react when Olive arrives?
- How does Olive help Santa and the reindeer team?



Think Aloud: "Even though Olive is a dog and not a reindeer, she still finds a way to help Santa with her special dog skills. The message seems to be that we all have unique abilities, and being ourselves can be exactly what's needed."

AFTER READING

Our Purpose: "What did Olive learn? How did being herself help the team?"

Extending Our Thinking: Ask students, "What special skills or talents do you have that could help others?" Connect Olive's unique dog abilities helping Santa's team to how each of us has different strengths that are valuable. Encourage students to draw a picture of themselves as a "helper" doing something they're good at (like being kind, sharing, building, drawing, running fast, or being a good listener). Students can add a speech bubble or caption explaining how their special skill helps others, then share their drawings with the class.

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.