



Too Many Toys

READ ALOUD GUIDE

Themes: Friendship, Memories, Caring for Others

Book Brief: A relatable story about Alice, who loves all of her stuffed animals and must decide what to do when her mom suggests donating some!

Author:
Storytime

Illustrator:
Ekaterina Ladatko

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, "Do you have a favorite toy or stuffed animal? Why is it special to you?" (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 Alice and her toys?"

DURING READING

Check for understanding & make connections:

- What does Alice's mom want to do with some of the toys?
- How does Alice feel about her toys?
- What does Alice say about each of her toys?
- Why does Alice want to keep all of her toys?



Think Aloud: "Alice explains why each toy is important to her: they all have special memories or meanings. The message seems to be that things we love are valuable because of the memories and feelings connected to them, not just because of what they are."

AFTER READING

Our Purpose: "What did we learn from Alice's story? Why were her toys so special to her?"

Extending Our Thinking: Ask students, "If you had to choose your most special toy, which would it be? Why is it important to you?" Encourage students to bring in or draw a picture of their favorite toy or special object and write or tell 2-3 sentences about why it's special; maybe it was a gift from someone important, it reminds them of a fun time, or it helps them feel safe. Students can share their special items and stories with the class.

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- 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.