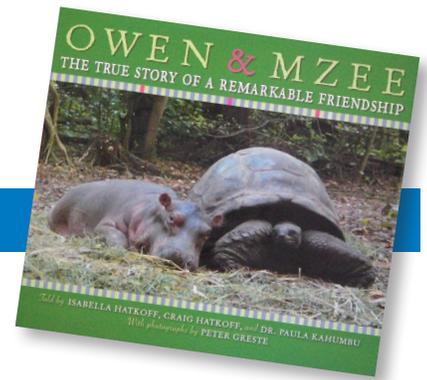


Owen & Mzee

The True Story of a Remarkable Friendship



A RIF GUIDE FOR EDUCATORS

Themes: Friendship, Ecosystems, Africa

Grade Level: 3rd to 5th grade

Book Brief: In 2004, the aftermath of the tsunami leaves a young hippo stranded at sea. This is the story of his rescue, his resiliency, and a unique friendship.

Authors:

Isabella Hatkoff,
Craig Hatkoff,
Dr. Paula Kahumbu

Photographer: Peter Greste

Content Connections: Science, Social Studies



TIME TO READ!

BEFORE WE READ, LET'S LOOK AT...

The Cover: Does anything strike you as strange about the cover? What kinds of

animals are in the picture? What do you think the title means?

The Pictures: Briefly flip through the pictures. What do your students notice about the animals' behavior? Is this behavior typical between species? What's unusual about it?

Prior Knowledge: What does friendship mean? Can anyone be friends? What makes a good friend?

Vocabulary: wallowed, resilience, surging, tsunami, intruder

Purpose for Reading: "As we read, keep the theme of *friendship* in mind."



WHILE WE READ



MONITORING COMPREHENSION

- ◆ What would you do if you saw a group of hippos eating your grass?

- ◆ Why wouldn't the other hippos welcome Owen?
- ◆ Why do you think Owen went to Mzee?
- ◆ What do Owen and Mzee have in common?
- ◆ What makes them such good friends?

LET'S THINK ABOUT

Our Purpose: How did your ideas about friendship change as we read? Why? Give specific examples from the book.

Extending Our Thinking: Ask these open-ended questions: Is it possible for animals to be friends? Do you think animals can feel love or affection? Why or why not? Give examples from others' or your own experiences.

NOTE TO EDUCATORS

- ◆ Extension Activities for Educators also available.
- ◆ Vocabulary Scaffolding Sheet also available.



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