Aaalligator!

A RIF GUIDE FOR EDUCATORS

Themes: Acceptance, Community, Friendship

Book Brief: When a boy meets a hungry alligator, it poses problems for the town. What will the alligator eat? Do the townspeople need to be scared? Can the alligator stay? Read this story about fear, compassion, and acceptance to find out.

Author:
Judith Henderson

Illustrator:
Andrea Stegmaier

Content Connections:
Science, Social Studies

TIME TO READ!

BEFORE WE READ LET'S LOOK AT...

The Cover: Read the title and point out the unusual spelling of the word alligator and the explanation mark. Ask students why they think the title appears this way.

The Pictures: Take a brief picture walk through the book. Ask students to guess what the story is about and come up with a possible one-sentence summary based on their guess.

Content Specific Vocabulary: leftovers, mayor, proclamation, official, disguise

Purpose for Reading: Say to students, "As we read, think about why people's feelings towards the alligator change over time."

WHILE WE READ

MONITORING FOR COMPREHENSION

- How was the boy able to cut the alligator free of the vine without getting hurt?
- Why did the alligator go to the boy's house?
- What kinds of things did the alligator and the boy do together as friends?
- When the townspeople saw the alligator, what was their first reaction?
- What did the mayor's official proclamation say?
- How did the boy convince the townspeople to accept the alligator?
- What did the townspeople do to protect the alligator from the mayor?

LET'S THINK ABOUT

Our Purpose: How did the boy's feelings about the alligator change throughout the story? Ask students to think about animals or people they know and how their friendships have grown over time.

Extending Our Thinking: How does getting to know a new animal or person help us befriend them? Ask students to think about ways to extend kindness to people who might be new to a situation.

NOTE TO EDUCATORS
- Extension Activities for Educators are also available.
- Vocabulary Scaffolding sheet also available.

Reading Is Fundamental.
until every child reads