

Aaalligator!

A RIF GUIDE FOR FAMILIES

Themes: Acceptance, Community, Friendship

Grade Level: PreK to 2nd grade

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



TIME TO READ!



Before reading, build background: Ask your child to list everything they know about reptiles. Talk about how fascinating reptiles are...and how fierce and potentially dangerous alligators in the wild are.

While reading, summarize: Pick a few points in the story to stop and work with your child to summarize the action so far.

After reading, ask questions:

- How did the alligator and the boy become friends?
- How did the townspeople feel about the alligator at first?
- What made the townspeople change their minds about the alligator?
- Why do you think the mayor wanted to get rid of the alligator?

RELATED ACTIVITIES

PERSONIFY A STUFFIE

Materials: Stuffie or drawing of a favorite character from books or television.

In *Aaalligator!*, the alligator was personified, or given human characteristics. Using your chosen stuffie/character, imagine what kinds of human characteristics it would have. What kinds of things would it like to do and eat? Would it be funny, anxious, smart, shy? Create a story (written or verbal) about a time the animal interacts with a group of people.



WHAT DOES YOUR COMMUNITY CARE FOR?

Materials: Paper, crayons/markers/colored pencils

The community in *Aaalligator!* cares about not wasting leftovers, taking care of each other, and - eventually - the alligator. What does your community care about? If someone (or something) came along and could solve a problem, what would it be? Draw a picture of the community's issue and the person (or thing) who could solve it.



ADDITIONAL RESOURCES



OTHER BOOKS ABOUT ACCEPTANCE:

- **Enemy Pie (2000)**
- **Black Boys Dance Too: Darnell Enters a Talent Show (2020)**
- **Room for Everyone (2021)**