

Becoming a Good Creature

READ ALOUD GUIDE

Themes: Life Lessons, Animals

Book Brief: School is not the only place to find a teacher. In this beautiful picture book, learn the many surprising lessons animals have to teach us about friendship, compassion, and how to be a better creature in the world.

Author:
Sy Montgomery
Illustrator:
Rebecca Green



BEFORE READING

The Cover: Read the title and examine the photos. What animals do you notice on the cover?

The Pictures: Take a brief picture walk and ask students what they see, think, or wonder about the story.

Vocabulary: [Vocabulary Guide](#)

Prior Knowledge: Ask students if they have ever learned something from someone who was not a teacher. Encourage them to share with a partner.

Purpose for Reading: “As we read, think about how the animals teach Sy to become a better person.”

DURING READING

Check for understanding & make connections:

- What did Sy learn from her dog Molly?
- What did Sy notice about the gorillas?
- What lesson did Sy learn from Christopher Hogwood?
- What lesson did Sy learn from the spider?
- What lesson did Sy learn from the weasel?

AFTER READING

Our Purpose: In what ways did the animals in the book inspire Sy? Ask students to describe the lessons learned throughout the story.

Extending Our Thinking: What lesson do you want to be able to teach to those around you? Have students think about ways they can show good traits to become good leaders.

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.