

DON'T LET THE PIGEON DRIVE THE BUS!

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by Mo Willems

Grades: Pre-K to 1; Ages: 2-6

Themes: Responsibility, Humor, Problem Solving, People at Work

Running Time: 5 minutes

SUMMARY

When the bus driver takes a break, his last instructions are: "Don't let the pigeon drive the bus!" This proves to be easier said than done. The lively and persistent pigeon will have children adamantly shouting, "No!" while also arousing their empathy for things that they are not allowed to do.

OBJECTIVES

- Students will make text-to-self and text-to-text connections.
- Students will discuss responsibility.

BEFORE VIEWING ACTIVITIES

Ask children if they have ever wanted to do something very badly, but weren't allowed. Guiding questions:

- What are some things that you want to do, but are not allowed to do?
- How do you feel when you are told "no"?
- Why do you think that you're not allowed to do these things that you want to do?
- What kinds of things do you say or do to try to make your (parent, teacher, babysitter) change their mind?

Children can draw pictures of themselves doing an activity that they have not been allowed to do. Then, they can draw another picture depicting how they feel when they are told that they can't do that activity. Finally, the children can draw pictures of what they would do or say to be allowed to do the activity. These can be saved for making a book as an After Viewing Activity.

AFTER VIEWING ACTIVITIES

Introduce children to the comprehension strategies of making text-to-self and text-to-text connections. Explain that when there is something in a book or video that reminds them of something in their lives, it is called a text-to-self. Ask students to share text-to-self connections that they had with the video (these could be anything from, "I have ridden on a bus," to, "I wanted to get some candy in the store and my mom said no."). Text-to-text connections are when a book or video has a similarity to another book or video. Help students think of examples of other books or videos that they have read or seen that can be connected to this video (for example *No! David* by David Shannon). Make lists on butcher or chart paper of the text-to-self and text-to-text connections that the students come up with. These can be hung in the classroom as reminders of good strategies that help students better understand books and videos.

Use the illustrations that the children drew in the Before Viewing Activity to put together a book. Older children can write their own sentences to go with their illustrations, while younger children will need a teacher to scribe their words. Students can make covers and title pages for the books and they can be added to the class library for others to read.

Discuss responsibility with the students. Guiding questions:

- What are your responsibilities at home? At school?
- What responsibilities do your parents and teachers have?
- Why did the bus driver say that the pigeon couldn't drive the bus?
- Why would it be irresponsible to let the pigeon drive the bus?

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