

I Completely Know about Guinea Pigs

by Lauren Child

Sensible Charlie and always-curious Lola learn about guinea pigs in this fun and energetic collage-style picture book.



Read

Before:

Introduce the book and tell the children a little bit about it. Follow that with a comment or question that is related to the story such as, *Has anyone ever had a guinea pig for a pet?* Encourage a discussion so the children can comment, ask questions, and express their feelings. Set the stage for listening by asking an “I wonder” statement based on the cover illustration.

- I wonder if Charlie wants to hold the guinea pig?

During:

Encourage the children to comment on the illustrations, ask questions, and predict what will happen next in the story. Children gain confidence and a sense of achievement through being able to correctly predict how a story will end. Point out “rare words” (e.g., those words that are not commonly used in every day conversation) and help the children relate the meaning in a way that makes sense to them.

Rare Words in *I Completely Know about Guinea Pigs*

- tidy: neat in appearance
- shy: reserved and cautious around others
- burrows: a hole or tunnel
- gnaw: chew at something
- bran: the husks of cereal grain
- straw: the stalks of threshed cereal crops such as wheat or barley
- stroking: gently caress with the hand over fur, skin or hair
- lonely: feeling alone, without companionship
- adventures: exciting events or experiences
- completely: thoroughly
- extremely: to a very high degree

After:

Discuss the story. Ask questions...

- Has anyone ever seen or held a guinea pig?
- Do guinea pigs bite?
- Look at the pictures of the different guinea pigs. Which is your favorite? Why?
- Who knows more about guinea pigs – Lola or Mini?
- Why do guinea pigs like long grass?
- Why do guinea pigs like to gnaw on wood and twigs?
- What do guinea pigs like to eat? What foods should you not give a guinea pig?
- Do you think a guinea pig would like going shopping or to the movies?
- Did Charlie think that Bert had run away?
- What did Bert have when Charlie and Lola finally found him?

Do

Guinea Pig Menu

On a large sheet of paper, make two columns: Foods that a guinea pig can eat and Foods that a guinea pig cannot eat. Read the following foods and ask the children which column that food should go under.

Carrots
Cookies
Apples
Potato Peelings
Green Beans
Oranges
Chips
Fish
Cucumbers
Peanuts
Yogurt
Bananas
Chocolate
Grapes