



FAMILY BOOK CONNECTIONS

BOOK BRIDGES

The Rabbit Listened

Author and Illustrator: Cori Doerrfeld

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Summary of The Rabbit Listened

The Rabbit Listened is a gentle and heartfelt story about a child named Taylor who experiences a difficult moment after something important to them doesn't go as planned. As Taylor tries to cope, a variety of animals offer different kinds of comfort and advice. Each approach reflects a different way people respond to big emotions, but not all of them feel helpful. The story shows that sometimes the best way to help someone is simply by being there and listening.

Read Alouds



[English Youtube
Read-Aloud](#)

About the Author and Illustrator

Cori Doerrfeld is a children's book author and illustrator known for creating emotionally meaningful stories with simple yet expressive illustrations. Cori Doerrfeld's illustration style is soft and expressive, helping young readers recognize emotions even without many words. Doerrfeld's work focuses on feelings, empathy, and relationships.

Learn More



Cori Doerrfeld



Questions to Ask Before, During, and After Reading

Talking about a story before, during, and after reading helps children think deeply, connect to the characters, and build a love of reading that lasts a lifetime.



Before Reading

- What do you notice about the child and the rabbit on the cover?
- How do you think the child is feeling?



During Reading

- How does each animal try to help Taylor?
- Which way would you like best?
- Why doesn't Taylor feel better right away?

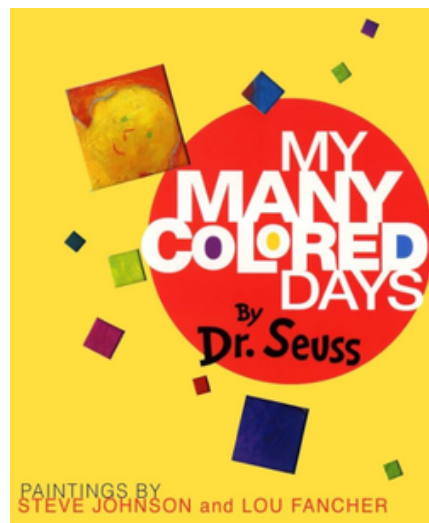


After Reading

- Why was the rabbit's way of helping different?
- When have you needed someone to listen?
- What can you do when someone is upset?

Extending the Book with Additional Reading

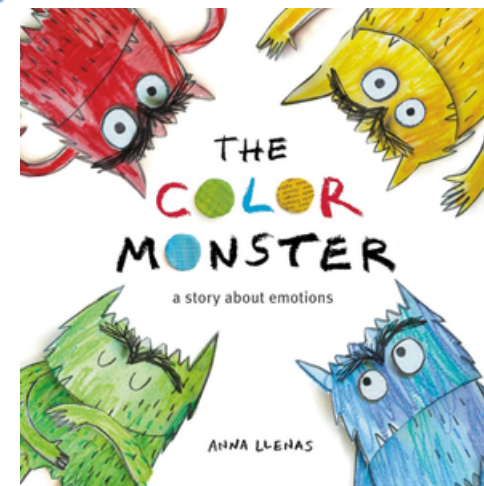
Continue exploring feelings, empathy, and the many ways people experience and express emotions with these companion books.



My Many Colored Days

by Dr. Seuss

A playful story that connects colors with feelings and moods.



The Color Monster

by Anna Llenas

A story about recognizing emotions and understanding mixed-up feelings.



Talk About Feelings

- What happens in our bodies when we feel upset?
- Why is listening an important skill in friendships?
- How do these books help us talk about emotions?

Extending the Book with Writing and Math

Two activities to help children reflect, write, sort, and count.



WRITING: A Story About a Feeling

Writing or drawing can help children express feelings when it is hard to say them out loud.

- 1 Think of a time you felt upset, frustrated, or sad.
- 2 Draw what happened.
- 3 Finish the sentence: "This made me feel..."
- 4 Write or tell what helped you feel better.
- 5 Add a title and sign your name.

Sentence Starters

- What happened was...
- This made me feel...
- What helped me was...



Was it easier or harder to write about your feelings?



MATH: Sort the Ways Animals Helped

Use the animals in the story to sort, count, and compare different kinds of help.

- 1 List the animals in the story.
- 2 Sort each animal by how it tried to help.
- 3 Count how many animals are in each group.
- 4 Compare the totals.
- 5 Talk about which type of help happened most.

Try These Groups



Talking



Fixing



Distracting



Yelling



Listening

Think and Talk

- Which kind of help happened most?
- How many animals listened?
- How many animals talked instead of listening?
- Which group had the fewest animals?



Extending the Book with Science

People and animals may protect, guide, or stay close to others in different ways. This activity helps children compare caring behaviors.

Compare Ways of Caring

Fold a paper in half. On one side, list ways people comfort others. On the other side, list ways animals care for or protect their young.

- 1 Make a list of ways people can comfort someone.
- 2 Make a list of ways animals care for or protect their young.
- 3 Compare the two lists.
- 4 Talk about what is the same and what is different.

People may:



- give a hug
- listen quietly
- help someone feel safe

Animals may:



- stay close
- carry or shelter their young
- protect them from danger



Talk About It

- What is similar?
- What is different?
- Why might different people want different kinds of comfort?





LITERACY
BRIDGES