



Cool as a Capybara

READ ALOUD GUIDE

Themes: Community, Helpfulness

Book Brief: When a flood hits the Amazon, the world's biggest rodents paddle to the rescue!

Author:
Storytime

Illustrator:
Saemi Oliveira

BEFORE READING

The Cover: Ask students to make a prediction about the story based on the cover and title.

The Pictures: Take a quick picture walk and ask students what they notice about the illustrations.

Prior Knowledge: Ask, "What do you know about capybaras? What special abilities do different animals have that help them survive?" (Optional: Think, Pair, Share)

Vocabulary: Frontload Tier 2 words using the accompanying [Vocabulary Guide](#).

Purpose for Reading: "As we read, pay attention to how Carlito and the capybaras respond to the flood. Think about what their actions show about their character."

DURING READING

Check for understanding & make connections:

- What challenge does the flood create for the animals?
- How do the capybaras respond when they find the baby marmoset stuck?
- Why do you think Carlito and his herd keep stopping to help other animals instead of just saving themselves?
- What traits or qualities do the capybaras show through their actions?



Think Aloud: "When Carlito encounters the flood and stranded animals, he chooses to help others instead of just his family. His actions show capybaras are brave, helpful, and caring leaders. Their response to this challenge reveals their character."

AFTER READING

Our Purpose: "How did Carlito and the capybaras respond to the challenge of the flood? What do their actions tell us about their character traits?"

Extending Our Thinking: Ask students, "What abilities or skills do you have that could help others?" Connect the capybaras' use of their swimming skills to help others to how we all have abilities that can make a difference. Encourage students to draw themselves helping someone using one of their skills or strengths. Students can share their drawings with the class.

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- 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.