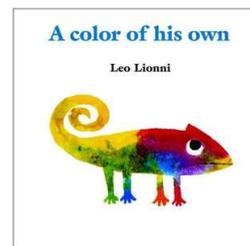




A READ GUIDE for Families

A Color of His Own

Author/Illustrator: Leo Lionni



R Repeat The Book

Repeat the book 3 to 5 times over the course of several days. When we repeat books, we give children the opportunity to hear vocabulary words several times. When reading with your children, talk about the story problem, the important events, and the characters' thoughts and feelings.

To introduce this book for the first time, read the title along with the author's name, and say, "This book is about a chameleon, a kind of lizard that changes color to match the colors around him. This chameleon changes from green to pink to blue to red. I wonder if the chameleon will find a color of his own. Let's read and find out." As you read, explain any words your child may not understand like *parrot*, *striped*, *remain*, *autumn*, and *wiser*. Act out words like *cheerfully*, *blew*, and *side by side*. Point to illustrations as you say words to help support vocabulary, such as *parrot* and *grass*.

You can talk about how the chameleon felt when he kept changing colors (possibly sad or disappointed), or why the chameleon stayed on the green leaf (possibly because he met a friend that changed colors with him), or how he felt at the end of the story even though he still did not have a color of his own (possibly happy because he was side by side his friend). After reading the book a few times, children should be able to help you recall the main events. As you go through the book, instead of reading all the words, encourage your child to tell you what is happening on each page and how the characters feel about what is happening. After repeated readings, they become the storyteller!

E Engage and Enjoy

Have fun! Use gestures, actions, and sounds to keep children engaged in the story. Enjoy acting out parts of the story and invite children to make motions and sounds with you.

A Ask Questions

Talking about the book is the most important thing! Ask a different "Why" question at the end of each reading. "Why" questions encourage critical thinking and encourage children to talk, solve problems, and explore concepts. Examples: Why did the chameleon decide to stay on the leaf? How did the chameleon feel at the end of the story? Why did he feel sad and disappointed? Why did the two chameleons always stay side by side?



Read Right
from the Start

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D Do More With The Book

Continue the fun of the story by choosing some activities to complete with your child.

- Prediction game. “What color would the chameleon be if it sat on a tree trunk?”
- Visit the Atlanta Zoo to see some of the colorful animals from the book. You can receive 4 free tickets if you visit your local library and check out a DVD about the zoo.
- Visit your local library and read other books about colors.
 - *Mouse Paint* by Ellen Stoll Walsh
 - *Planting a Rainbow* by Lois Ehlert
 - *You Be You* by Linda Kranz
 - *Little Blue and Little Yellow* by Leo Lionni
- Design a polka dotted chameleon using a dot or Bingo marker.
- Make puppets to represent the chameleons in the story. Encourage your child to retell the story using the puppets.
- Sing the song “Friend Of Mine” to the tune of Mary had a Little Lamb.

*Will you be a friend of mine,
Friend of mine, friend of mine?
Will you be a friend of mine
And (choose an action) around with me?*

