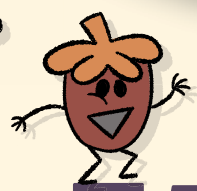


A new early reader series from
Mo Willems!



UNLIMITED
SQUIRRELS



Mo!

A TEACHING GUIDE!

Pre-Reading Activity

“PICTURE IT” ILLUSTRATION ANALYSIS



Have readers make predictions about what will be found in *I Lost My Tooth!* or *Who is the Mystery Reader?* based on a selection of the book’s illustrations.

DIRECTIONS:

Divide readers into groups that have as many members as there are characters in the illustration.

Distribute a copy of an illustration from *I Lost My Tooth!* or *Who is the Mystery Reader?* to each group. Have the group study the picture and discuss what they think happened immediately before and after the moment shown in the image.

After giving kids time to plan, have groups improvise a scene that would “bookend” the action in the illustration. Have students consider what happened in the story that led up to the moment shown and consider what happens immediately following this image. Next, have each group “freeze” in the middle of their scene, imitating the action in the image.

After each group performs their scene, read *I Lost My Tooth!* or *Who is the Mystery Reader?* and have readers explore the importance of illustrations. How would the story be different without the art? In what ways does it enhance the story? What “Easter eggs” (hidden elements) can they find?

Post-Reading Activity

SOMEBODY / WANTED / BUT / SO CHART

Use a graphic organizer to help readers identify basic literary elements, as well as major plot points, of *I Lost My Tooth!* or *Who is the Mystery Reader?*

DIRECTIONS:

Working with the whole group, model the process of the SWBS chart by using a familiar story (perhaps there’s an Elephant & Piggie willing to help you out). After checking for understanding, read *I Lost My Tooth!* or *Who is the Mystery Reader?* aloud to the group, and have readers complete the following graphic organizer to check for understanding of major literary elements and plot points.

Somebody (CHARACTER)	
Wanted (GOAL)	
But (PROBLEM)	
So (SOLUTION)	

Researching Made Fun with Unlimited Squirrels!

I LOST MY TOOTH! RESEARCH RODENT ASSISTANTS

In *I Lost My Tooth!*, readers discover interesting facts about teeth from Research Rodent. Now, ask them to research their own fun teeth facts. First, ask students to come up with a few questions they have about other animals' teeth, and then divide students into groups and assign each group a category: carnivores, omnivores, and herbivores. Have them use books or online resources to research the teeth of animals that fall into their assigned category. When they are finished researching, have them share their findings with the class.

WONDER SQUIRREL TO THE RESCUE IN WHO IS THE MYSTERY READER?

While reading *Who Is the Mystery Reader?*, Wonder Squirrel introduces exciting facts about the history of writing, how to make paper, and hieroglyphics.

Take readers to www.unlimitedsquirrels.com as an extension, and after an exploration of the slideshow resources there, give them an opportunity to learn more about how paper is made through kid-friendly videos available online. (As always, be a brainy squirrel and preview the video first before showing to young people.)

Both the Egyptians and the Maya used hieroglyphs to communicate and indicate sounds and words. Young readers can discover even more fascinating facts about hieroglyphs from National Geographic Kids: <https://www.natgeokids.com/au/discover/history/egypt/hieroglyphics-uncovered/>



Classroom Extension Activities

LETTER TO THE TOOTH FAIRY

Like Zoom Squirrel, readers have their own unique experiences when losing teeth. Have readers think about their own experiences, and craft letters to the tooth fairy about what happened when they lost their first tooth and what it was like to have the tooth fairy come for a visit. If readers haven't lost a tooth yet, it's okay—ask them to use their imaginations to tell a tale about what they hope will happen when they do.

WRITE YOUR OWN SQUIRREL STORY

On the endpapers, readers are introduced to Zoom Squirrel and an additional cast of bushy-tailed characters. After asking readers to select one of the other Squirrels, have them create an original adventure story for their Squirrel of choice, encouraging them to draft their story either as a text-only narrative or as an illustrated story similar to *I Lost My Tooth!*

WHAT KIND OF SQUIRREL ARE YOU?

Have each reader draw themselves as a Squirrel. What is their Squirrel name? Do they wear a lab coat, like Research Rodent, or have wings and a beak like Flappy Squirrel? Tell them to GO NUTS! After they draw themselves, have them pick (or draw) a Squirrel friend.



WHAT'S YOUR SUPERPOWER?

In *Who Is the Mystery Reader?* Wink and Klink Squirrels both discover that reading is a superpower, and it's a talent that anyone can have with some patience and practice. Think about Wink Squirrel's actions—besides being a “brave” and “cool” mystery reader, what are the other positive character qualities he exhibits? Working with partners, review his superpower behavior and make a list of 3–5 positive character qualities you believe him to have. Next, use the list created by the group and brainstorm ways you personally could demonstrate at least one of these qualities. After doing so, create a personal plan of action—how will you use your superpower to benefit others?

THE WRITE STUFF!

Remind young writers that the best stories have a beginning, middle, and ending. After sharing *I Lost My Tooth!* or *Who Is the Mystery Reader?*, ask them to work together to identify the three main parts of their selected story. After reviewing these parts and clarifying for understanding, let the storytelling begin! Remind writers that while some of the most fun stories feature squirrels, they should use their imaginations when creating original stories—their characters can be as creative as they are! After the original stories have been composed, it's time to illustrate and share!

Hands-On/Get-Up-and-Moving Activities

SQUIRRELING AWAY ACORNS—ESTIMATION JARS

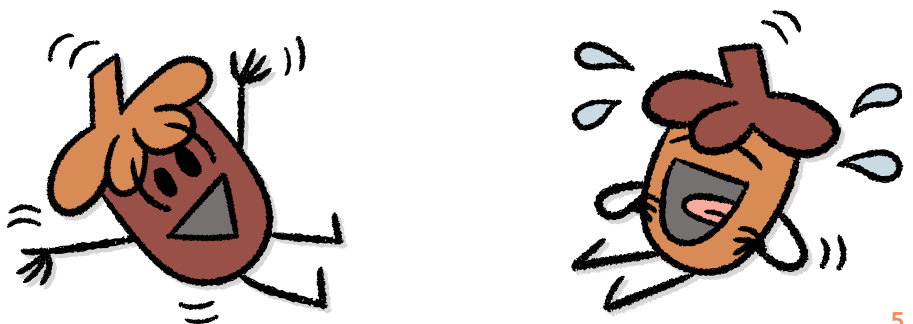
Squirrels love to store things. Use jars to “store” nuts and allow readers to practice their math skills with estimation practice.

PREP:

- Fill a variety of different-size Mason jars with small plastic or foam acorns (these can usually be easily found at a craft store or ordered online). Be sure to count them after filling up each container and keep the answers handy.
- Spread out jars across the space so teams can move around and use their math skills to estimate the number of acorns in each jar.
- Have colorful sheets of paper at each station upon which each group can write their answers.
- Prep prizes—be creative! Options could be copies of another Mo Willems book or small goody bags of snacks and treats.

DIRECTIONS:

Divide readers into small groups and have them move around the room working together to do calculations and make predictions about the number of acorns contained in each jar. Allow ample time for groups to circulate and make predictions at each station, and after teams have completed this activity, reveal the winning estimate for each station. Prizes can be distributed to members of individual groups or to all readers.



NUTTY PASS

In this elimination activity, very similar to musical chairs, players try to avoid being the last one left holding the acorn. You'll need: a large plastic acorn or nut or a soft circular item.

HOW TO PLAY:

Everyone sits in a circle except for the "caller." The caller closes his or her eyes, and the rest of the players pass around the acorn.

When the caller calls "Stop!" whoever has the acorn leaves the circle—which is why the players pass the nut along as fast as they can. The game is over when only one person is left. The sole remaining player becomes the caller in the next game.

ACORN-Y JOKE TIME

After sharing some family-friendly jokes (including at least one featured in *Unlimited Squirrels*), put readers together to tell their favorite jokes, as well as to attempt to write some original ones. Allow group members an opportunity to practice sharing and delivering jokes, offering jokesters a chance to stand and share their favorites with the larger group.

WRITE YOUR NAME IN HIEROGLYPHS!

Squirrely readers have fun writing with hieroglyphs! Provide readers with a copy of the hieroglyphic alphabet and have them write their name in hieroglyphs—or—for an extra challenge, have them create a message for a friend using hieroglyphs. After they finish, they can switch and decode the message!

IT'S NOT A MYSTERY: MASKS AND DRESS-UP MAKE READING MORE FUN!

One of the most exciting parts of pretending is using one's imagination. Using the *Unlimited Squirrels* and their "superpowers" as inspiration, set up a craft station with paints, markers, stickers, and a variety of other crafty materials where readers can BAM! (Build A Mask) to transform into a mysterious masked reader. After creating their masks and while they dry, invite readers to visit the dress-up station to put together and create a "Super Suit" custom costume. When everyone has donned their disguises, gather them around for a parade and some squirrely storytelling.



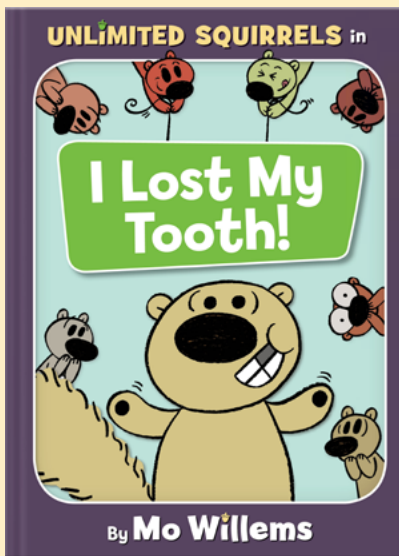


Mo Willems, creator of the revolutionary, award-winning, best-selling Elephant & Piggie books, is back with another breakout early reader series. An ensemble cast of Squirrels, acorns, and pop-in guests hosts a page-turning extravaganza!

Unlimited Squirrels are furry friends!
Unlimited Squirrels have fuzzy ends!

If you can read **ELEPHANT & PIGGIE** here is our referral:

Try **UNLIMITED SQUIRRELS!**



In *I Lost My Tooth!*, Zoom Squirrel has lost a front tooth! The Squirrels leap into action when they discover the missing tooth is a baby tooth! Do you know more about teeth than the Squirrels do? You will by the end of this book!

ISBN: 978-1-368-02457-0 / \$12.99 / POB



In *Who is the Mystery Reader?*, Zoom Squirrel tries out a new superpower with help from a mysterious Mystery Reader. But will the Squirrel pals ever find out who the real Mystery Reader is? Do you know more about reading than the Squirrels do? You will by the end of this book!

ISBN: 978-1-368-04686-2 / \$12.99 / POB

**UNLIMITED SQUIRRELS
IS UNLIMITED FUN!**

This guide was created by Dr. Rose Brock, a professor at Sam Houston State University. Dr. Brock holds a PhD in library science, specializing in children's and young adult literature.

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