

# The Pigeon Wants a Puppy!

by Mo Willems

The funniest book yet in the best-selling pigeon series.



## 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, *Have you ever wanted something only to realize once you found out more about it (or actually got it) that you didn't really want it?* 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 why the pigeon is holding his wings together?

### 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 *The Pigeon Wants a Puppy!*

- promise: to assure somebody that something will certainly happen
- possible: able to happen
- walrus: a large sea mammal with tough skin, large tusks and bristly whiskers

### After:

Discuss the story. Ask questions...

- Do you think the pigeon knows anything about taking care of a puppy?
- What did the pigeon say a puppy needs plenty of?
- Is a pigeon larger or smaller than a puppy?
- Is it OK to take a piggyback ride on a puppy?
- How can you tell from the illustrations that the pigeon loves puppies?
- How can you tell from the illustrations that the pigeon is throwing a hissy fit about wanting a puppy?
- Instead of throwing a hissy fit about wanting a puppy, what else could the pigeon have done?
- Was the pigeon scared of the puppy?
- What things about the puppy scared the pigeon?
- Do you think the pigeon knows anything about a walrus?

## Do

### Act It Out

Visit Mo Willem's site at [www.pigeonpresents.com](http://www.pigeonpresents.com) for activities and information related to all of his titles. Under Grown Up Stuff, you will find an activity called Act It Out in The Pigeon Teacher's Guide where you have your class stand up and act out the Pigeon's role, emulating his dialogue and his body language as he goes through the range of emotions. You can then ask your children if they have ever had a hissy fit and talk about what it felt like.

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