



# BRUCE'S BIG STORM

Author: Ryan T. Higgins

Illustrator: Ryan T. Higgins



## Overview

### ABOUT THE BOOK

Bruce's home is already a full house. But when a big storm brings all his woodland neighbors knocking, he'll have to open his door to a crowd of animals in need of shelter—whether he likes it or not. Readers will love this next installment of the uproarious, award-winning Mother Bruce series. (*Source: books.disney.com*)

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR/ILLUSTRATOR

Ryan T. Higgins is an author/illustrator. As a child, he lived on a diet of cartoons, cheese sandwiches, and climbing trees. Until he was four years old, Ryan wanted to grow up to be a tiger. When that didn't work out, he decided to become a cartoonist. He's been making his own cartoons ever since and hasn't grown up yet.

Ryan is the author and illustrator of the #1 New York Times best-selling *We Don't Eat Our Classmates*; the New York Times best-selling *Mother Bruce*, which received the E. B. White Read Aloud Award and the Ezra Jack Keats New Illustrator Honor; and others. He lives in Maine with his three children, three dogs, three cats, one gecko, one tortoise, and one wife. (*Source: Amazon*)

## The Read Aloud

### BEFORE READING

*Use these before reading the story to help students activate background knowledge and make predictions:*

- I wonder what it means when a Big Storm is coming. What do you think happens during a big storm?
- ♥ Look at the animals on the cover of this book. How do you think the animals are feeling about the storm?

### DURING THE STORY

*Use these while reading the story to help students interpret the action and content.*

- ♥ I wonder why Bruce does not like neighbors.
- ♥ Does anyone want to guess what “pestering” means?
- I wonder what it means that “the big storm was too much” for Nibbs the mouse.
- I wonder what a rescue mission is.
- What do you think it means that “one last guest arrived...A great big oak tree?”

This book is best for kids ages 3-5 years old.

Look for the ♥ to incorporate social emotional learning questions!

### Topics:

Friendship, Helping Others, Teamwork, Courage

*Model curiosity and wonder with these power phrases...*

I wonder...

I notice...

Tell me more!

*Ask these questions about any book...*

Why do you think the author wrote this story?  
What's their message?

How did things change in the story?

What does this story make you wonder about?

*Help readers show their thinking by asking...*

That's interesting! What made you think that? Or how do you know?

- What are some of the different ways that Bruce’s neighbors help out after the storm?
- ♥ I notice everyone had to pitch in. What does that mean they are doing?
- I wonder what a rumpus room is. Does anyone want to guess?

#### AFTER READING

*Use these after reading the story to help students understand what they just read.*

- I wonder why all the animals came to Bruce’s house. Can anyone guess why?
- ♥ How did Bruce feel about his neighbors being in his house?
- What happened when the storm came?
- ♥ How do you think the mouse and the rabbit felt when they were swept away by the storm?
- Tell me more about what Bruce did when the mouse and the rabbit were in trouble?
- What or who made it possible to save the mouse, the rabbit, and even Bruce?
- What did the animals see when they went outside after the storm passed?
- How did Bruce’s house get put back together? What happened to make this possible?
- ♥ What are some examples that show the animals being brave?

#### BRINGING THE BOOK TO LIFE!

- ♥ How do you think it would feel to be in a big storm?
- Think of a time when you needed to stay inside to be safe. How did that make you feel?
- ♥ How do you think it makes someone feel when you help them?
- What are some of the ways you help other people?
- ♥ Why is it important to help others?
- ♥ What is an example of someone you know being brave, even if they felt frightened at the time?

#### COOPERATIVE LEARNING

- With a partner:
  - Come up with some ways you can help others in your family or school.
  - Imagine you are stuck inside for a whole day. What are some of the things you can do to pass the time?
- Round Robin:
  - What was your favorite part of this story? Why?

## Small Group Activities

#### DISCUSSION ACTIVITY

- Bruce did not seem to like his neighbors. Why do you think that is?
- ♥ Even though Bruce is grumpy, his neighbors seem to like him a lot, even making him their Den Mother. Why do you think that is?
- How were the animals able to accomplish the rescue mission?
- How did the animals help Bruce?
- Can you think of something you do by yourself that would be easier or more fun if others were doing it with you?
- Think of things in your neighborhood or school that need cleaning up and ways you can help to do this.

#### WRITING ACTIVITY

- I learned something interesting about the author of this book: He is an illustrator too. That means he wrote the book and drew all the pictures in the story. Imagine a story of your own and draw some parts of it.
- Draw a picture of you and your family (or you and your classmates) doing something to help someone.

- ♥ Draw a picture of what it feels like to be frightened, and a picture of what it feels like to be brave.

#### EXTENSION ACTIVITY

- ♥ Think of some ways you can help comfort someone who might be scared.
- Think of someone who helps others and write a class note to thank them for being brave, kind, etc. (If needed, prompt children to think of first responders, doctors/nurses, teachers, school cafeteria or sanitation staff, etc.)

## Common Core Links

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL. K.1, K.3, K.4, K.6, K.7; 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4, 1.7