

# Bright Ideas for Growing Readers

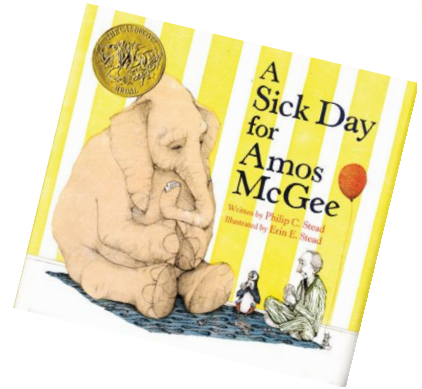
## Activities for the Classroom

### *A Sick Day for Amos McGee*

*Growing Readers Preschool Book of Excellence*

Written by Philip C. Stead

Illustrated by Erin E. Stead



Just like the rest of us, preschoolers know how it feels to wake up in the morning with aches, shakes and a high temperature. We learn early that all of us get sick, and we hope someone is there to rub our forehead, fix us hot soup, or bring us a big red balloon. *A Sick Day for Amos McGee* shows us that compassion is reciprocal, and maybe that compassion actually heals us. Below are some activities and storytelling tips for this Book of Excellence.

**Pajama Day:** Amos McGee wears snazzy pajamas. Invite families to send their preschooler to class wearing their favorite pajamas. During morning circle, let each preschooler stand and showcase what they wear to bed. Ask questions like, “Why are these pajamas special to you?” and “Will you tell us about your pajamas?” If preschoolers need help you might prompt them with descriptive words like “fuzzy”, “striped”, or “two-pieced”.

**Breakfast, Amos Style:** Tell preschoolers that you are going to have storytime at the breakfast table today. Ask your cook to prepare some oatmeal and warm tea (apple juice works, too). Talk to the sugar bowl like Amos does in the book. See if the preschoolers catch this reference when you read the story. (If you are worried about sugar intake, you can use a “pretend sugar bowl”. Also, you may decide to make the oatmeal yourself with student help.)

**Sick Day in Dramatic Play:** Ask preschoolers to help create a “care room” in the dramatic play area. What types of things might you need to help people feel better? Beds? Blankets? Flowers? Let preschoolers come up with some ideas, and then let them role play. Someone could be “sick” while the others are “caretakers”. Stuffed animals could be used, too.

### Storytelling Tips

1. Read the book all the way through, and see if any preschooler notices the red balloon that pops up on different pages. There is also a tiny mouse and bird that follow the story throughout. After reading the story, start from the beginning and let preschoolers find these characters, and talk about what they are doing.
2. While reading, pause and ask questions like. “How is Amos treating the elephant?” (with patience) “How is Amos treating the rhino?” (with care) “How about the penguin?” (with thoughtfulness) “How are the animals treating Amos?” You may need to expand on these words to see if preschoolers understand the meanings.

If you liked this book, check out these other Growing Readers books: *A Visitor for Bear* - by Bonny Becker and Kady McDonald Denton and *Miss Rumphius* - by Barbara Cooney

