

# A SICK DAY FOR AMOS MCGEE

## Play Synopsis

### A SICK DAY FOR AMOS MCGEE

Book written by Philip C. Stead and illustrated by Erin E. Stead

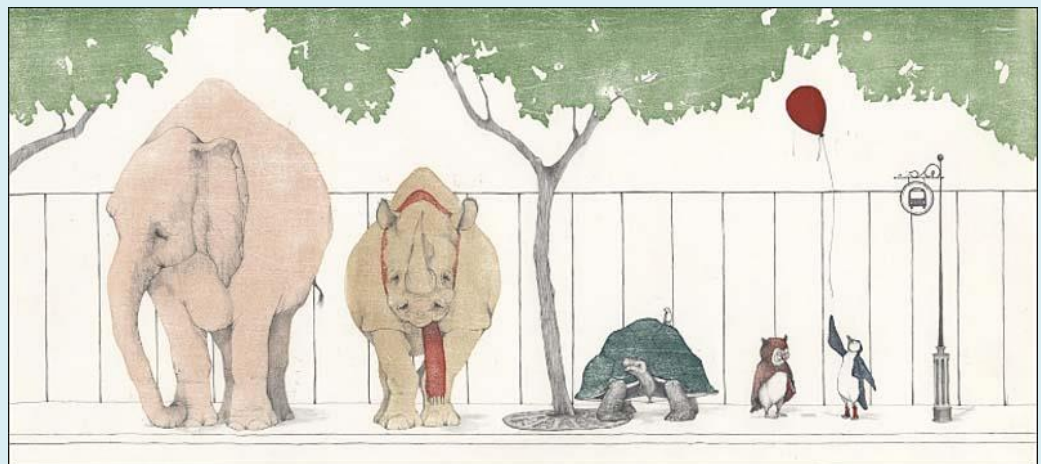
Play written by Bruce C. Miller

*A Sick Day for Amos McGee* and this study guide are produced in support of the teaching of the Language Arts, Music, and Theatre

Amos McGee is as kindly and conscientious a zookeeper as you will find. Day after day he demonstrates the perfect way to bond with each of his friends: running races with the tortoise, spending quiet time with the timid penguin, and being always there with a handkerchief when one is needed by the sniffing elephant. When one day Amos himself feels under the weather and must remain home in his bed, the animals must decide together what they can do to return the favor.

### At the library:

- A SICK DAY FOR AMOS MCGEE by Philip C. Stead and illustrated by Erin E. Stead



## LET'S WRITE

What causes Amos to stay home from work one day? Do you think this is a good choice? Explain.

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Choose one activity that Amos enjoys with an animal friend. Why is this the perfect activity to do with that animal?

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What animal would you choose to visit at the zoo? What would you do with that animal?

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Pretend you are home sick, just like Amos in *A Sick Day for Amos McGee*. Who would you want to visit you? Why?

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## THE KINDNESS TREE

**Use** the following questions to engage in a discussion about kindness and caring:

- In what ways did Amos show kindness to the animals at the zoo? Why do you think he acted this way?
- What are some ways that you show kindness to people around you?
- What was the effect of the way that Amos treated the animals? How did they act towards him? Why do you think they acted this way?
- Have you ever repaid a kindness like the animals did for Amos?
- What can you do in the future to show kindness to others?

After students have shared, culminate the discussion by creating a **"Kindness Tree"**.

Make a bulletin board display of a bare tree, with cut-out leaves that students can draw on, or a teacher can write on.

Include ways that students will show kindness to others.

Alternatively, students can make leaves that recognize others that have been kind to them. Set a goal to get the tree full of leaves!



## SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

**Please put the following story events in order from 1-10.**

\_\_\_ The penguin keeps Amos' feet warm.

\_\_\_ Amos wakes up with sniffles and sneezes.

\_\_\_ Amos puts sugar in his oatmeal and teacup.

\_\_\_ The rhinoceros gives Amos a handkerchief.

\_\_\_ Amos and the animals have tea before they turn out the light.

\_\_\_ Amos gets out of bed and puts on his uniform.

\_\_\_ The number five bus takes Amos to the zoo.

\_\_\_ At the zoo, the animals are concerned when they don't see Amos.

\_\_\_ Amos plays chess with the elephant and runs races with the tortoise.

\_\_\_ The animals gets on the number five bus.

## MORE TEACHER RESOURCES

### History and Social Sciences

Gr.K-1- How were the characters in the play acting like good friends? Explain.

Gr.2-3- Illustrate and describe the setting of the story. Was it urban, suburban, or rural?

Gr. 4-5- Create a timeline of events from the play. What do you think the most important event was?

### Science

Gr.K-1-Compare and contrast the physical characteristics of the animals from the story.

Gr. 2-3- Research one animal from the story. Create a poster with interesting animal facts.

Gr.K-1-What do elephants and penguins need as part of their different habitats?

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