

# Alligators All Around

## Alligators All Around

by Maurice Sendek (Harper)

Themes: Alphabet/Humor/Music

Level: Pre-K - 1

Length: 2 minutes, animated

### Summary

ALLIGATORS ALL AROUND is a funny picture alphabet, sung with lively lyrics by Carole King. The number opens with several alligators dancing around to the Lyric "A, alligators all around". To illustrate the letter B, an alligator pulls balloons out of a paper bag and bursts them with a needle. This visual is accompanied by the lyric, "B, bursting balloons". As the picture alphabet progresses, the alligator continues to pull objects out of the paper bag, or use the bag itself to represent objects beginning with each letter of the alphabet.

Young children will be delighted by the humorous images and lively lyrics.

### Before Viewing Activities

Share the book Alligators All Around with children. Then ask: What other things can you think of that the alligator might do for each letter of the alphabet? What was the silliest thing the alligator did? If you were an alligator, do you think the alligator in the story would make a good friend? Why? Why not? If the alligator in the story could have other animal friends, what kinds of animals would they be?

Display an alphabet chart or poster. See how many objects children can name that begin with each letter of the alphabet.

Sing the alphabet song with children. Then provide a sheet of cardboard, on which a letter of the alphabet is written, for each child in the group. Then have children stand in a line and sing the alphabet song again. This time, as each letter is mentioned, have the child who is holding that letter hop out of the line.

### After Viewing Activities

Fill a large paper bag with objects with names beginning with different letters of the alphabet. Have children in the class take turns closing their eyes, reaching into the bag, and pulling out an object. As children show the objects to their classmates, see if children in the group can identify the letter the object starts with. Continue the activity until each child in the group has had an opportunity to pull an object out of the bag.

Work with children to make large cardboard letters that they can wear around their necks. Have children choose the letter they would like to wear and then draw pictures of objects that begin with the letter they are wearing. Later, have children stand in front of the class while wearing their letters and share their drawings with their classmates. Have others in the group say the name of the letter each child is wearing, and the names of the objects in the drawings, out loud.

Cut out a large alligator from a sheet of kraft paper. Have children work together to paint the alligator. Then have children paint a large body of water with blue paint for the alligator to swim in. Attach the alligator and the body of water to a bulletin board. Tell children that this alligator finds objects underwater that begin with each letter of the alphabet. Have children paint pictures that begin with each letter of the alphabet on the water and discuss their contributions with their classmates.

Other book based films and videos for early childhood are available from Weston Woods. These include:

CAPS FOR SALE by Esphyr Slobodkina  
THE CATERPILLAR AND THE POLLIWOG by Jack Kent  
CHANGES, CHANGES by Pat Hutchins  
EACH PEACH PEAR PLUM by Janet and Allen Ahlberg  
HAPPY BIRTHDAY, MOON by Frank Asch  
HAROLD AND THE PURPLE CRAYON by Crockett Johnson  
MAKE WAY FOR DUCKLINGS by Robert McCloskey  
THE NAPPING HOUSE written by Audrey Wood and illustrated by Don Wood  
PICNIC by Emily Arnold McCully  
THE SNOWMAN by Raymond Briggs  
WHISTLE FOR WILLIE by Ezra Jack Keats

**CALL 1-800-243-5020 TO ORDER THESE AND OTHER WESTON WOODS VIDEOS!**

This guide may be photocopied for free distribution without restriction

# ONE WAS JOHNNY

## One Was Johnny

By Maurice Sendak (Harper)

Theme: Counting/Humor/Music

Level: Pre-Kindergarten - Grade 3

Length: 3 minutes, animated

## Summary

One Was Johnny is a lively story, told in song, about a boy named Johnny who is peacefully reading a book until he is intruded upon by one creature after another. After the ninth visitor, Johnny loses his patience and decides he must do something. Johnny decides to count backwards until each and every one of his visitors is gone.

This delightful story in song will help children learn to count as well as engage them in a silly, engaging tale.

## Objectives

- Children will reinforce counting skills
- Children will enjoy a story set to music
- Children will learn to follow a sequence of events

## Before Viewing Activities

Share the book *One Was Johnny* with children. Then ask: If you were Johnny which visitor would you like best/least? Why? What other things could Johnny have done, besides counting backward, to make his visitors go away? Which visitor do you think Johnny will miss most? What if this visitor decided to stay? Have children write a short story imagining Johnny and this visitor who came to stay.

Talk with children about their pets. If children do not have pets, ask them to describe the kind of pet they would like to have. Then ask: If you could have any kind of animal in the world for a pet, including a tiger, elephant, mouse, or any other animal you might think of, what would it be? Why would you enjoy having this animal for a pet? Where would you keep it? What would you do with your pet for fun?

## After Viewing Activities

Make numeral posters. For each poster, print the numerals one through ten in a vertical column on a piece of poster board. Make one poster for each child in your class. Then have children draw animals, or cut out pictures of animals and attach them, beside each numeral. Children will draw one animal beside the numeral 1, two animals beside the numeral 2, etc. Tell children that the animals they draw can be animals that actually exist or imaginary animals. Later, have children share their animal posters with one another and display them on a classroom wall or bulletin board.

Have children invent a silly story involving groups of objects/animals. Begin by offering a story starter such as "Once upon a time there was one tiny (peanut)". Have children fill in the blank by naming one object/animal. Then say, "This tiny (peanut) was joined by two interesting (elephants)." Again, have children fill in the blank. Continue the story until you reach the numeral ten. Print children's stories on a large piece of kraft paper as they dictate it.

Then say: "When it was time to go home, the ten ( ) left, followed by the nine ( ), the eight ( )," etc. Have children follow along with the printed story and try to recall the objects/animals they used to fill in the blanks.

Provide each child with numeral cards (1 through 10). Staple a small plastic bag to each card. Then take a walk outdoors with children and have them hunt for objects. Have children put one object in the bag attached to the card with the numeral 1 printed on it, two objects in the bag attached to the card with the numeral 2 printed on it, etc. Later, when you return to the classroom, have children count the objects in their bags to be sure that they contain the correct number of objects. Then have children share these objects that they discovered outdoors with their classmates.

Other book based films and videos by Maurice Sendak are available from Weston Woods. These include:

CHICKEN SOUP WITH RICE

IN THE NIGHT KITCHEN

PIERRE

REALLY ROSIE

WHERE THE WILD THINGS ARE

**CALL 1-800-243-5020 TO ORDER THESE AND OTHER WESTON WOODS VIDEOS!**

This guide may be photocopied for free distribution without restriction

# PIERRE

Pierre

by Maurice Sendak (Harper)

Themes: Manners/Humor/Music

Grade Level: PreK-1

Running Time: 6 minutes, animated

## Summary

Pierre is the make-believe story of a boy who, to every question answers, "I don't care." For example, when Pierre's parents ask him to go somewhere with them, Pierre's response is, "I don't care."

One day, when both of Pierre's parents have given up hope and leave him at home, a lion comes along and asks Pierre if he would mind if he gobbled him up. When Pierre replies, "I don't care," that is precisely what the lion does. Pierre's parents return to find the lion in Pierre's bed, with Pierre inside the lion's stomach.

Pierre's parents take Pierre to the doctor, where the boy is shaken out of the lion's stomach and shaken up enough to change his whole attitude. From then on, Pierre's motto becomes "Care!"

## Objectives

- Children will investigate family relationships
- Children will learn about the importance of good manners
- Children will explore the concept of fantasy and reality

## Before Viewing Activities

Share the book Pierre with children.

Then ask:

Do you ever answer "I don't care" when someone asks you something? Why?

Why do you think Pierre changed his mind at the end of the story and decided to care?

Talk with children about their relationships with family members. Ask: How do the people in your family show that they care for one another? What do you do when you want to be especially nice to someone in your family? What do you do when you're angry with your parent (s) or brothers/sisters? How do you feel when you're not getting along with people in your family?

Discuss the different things children care about. Ask: What are the most important things to you? Why? How do you show that you care for people, your pets, or your special things? What do you think your life might be like if you didn't care about anything?

## After Viewing Activities

Have a special "good manners day" in the classroom. On this day, have children make an extra effort to say "please", "thank you", "excuse me", etc. At the end of the day, talk with the children about how this day felt, and how it was different from other days. Have children work together to decide what kinds of changes they might want to make in their classroom based on their experience of "good manners day."

Ask children to retell the story of Pierre by changing his attitude from "I don't care" to "I care." Ask: If Pierre told his mother that he cared each time she said something to him or offered him something, what kind of day do you think they might have together? What kind of day might Pierre have had with his father? Encourage children to describe the different ways Pierre and his parents might have made the most out of an ordinary day, simply by having a positive attitude.

Talk with children about fantasy and reality. Will a lion really come and eat you up if you say "I don't care?" Make up a story about a person who always says, "I hate spinach" or "I hate ice cream." What fantastic thing could happen to him/her?

Other book based films and videos about manners are available from Weston Woods. These include:

GOLDBLOCKS AND THE THREE BEARS by James Marshall  
THE LITTLE RED HEN by Paul Galdone  
MADELINE AND THE BAD HAT by Ludwig Bemelmens

**CALL 1-800-243-5020 TO ORDER THESE AND OTHER WESTON WOODS VIDEOS!**

This guide may be photocopied for free distribution without restriction