

A

Is for Alligator!

There's an Alligator Under My Bed

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A little boy knows there is an alligator under his bed, but his parents can't see it! So he decides to take matters into his own hands. Youngsters are sure to rest easier after watching this little boy triumph over the alligator, which is lured out from under the bed with a tempting trail of treats!

**Who's Afraid?***Using prior knowledge*

Is everyone afraid of scaly, toothy, four-legged reptiles? Nope! But everyone is afraid of something! Have youngsters discuss common fears with this simple prereading activity. Encourage students to name some common fears, such as snakes, monsters, spiders, and the dark. Then ask them whether alligators might be considered scary. After youngsters share their thoughts about alligators, explain that the story you're about to read is about a little boy who finds a way to get rid of an alligator. Then have youngsters get ready for an entertaining read-aloud.

**Hiding Places***Developing a story innovation*

The alligator in the story chooses to hide under a bed. But an imaginary alligator might show up anywhere! Have youngsters brainstorm other locations for the alligator with this class book. To begin, ask students where an imaginary alligator might be found, such as in a closet, under a sink, or in a garage. Then give each child a sheet of 12" x 18" white construction paper labeled with the prompt shown. Have each youngster complete the prompt and draw a picture to match. Then bind the pages together with a cover titled "Where Is the Alligator?" Read the completed book to your youngsters before placing it in your independent reading center. Little ones are sure to snap up this reading choice!

A

A-a-alligator Armor

Recognizing the short A sound

Youngsters supply this alligator with its distinctive bony plates and practice the short A sound at the same time! Cut from green bulletin board paper a large alligator shape and tape it to a tabletop. Make a green construction paper copy of the picture cards on page 6. Cut the cards apart and then place them near the alligator cutout. A small group of children visits the table, and each child, in turn, chooses a card. She says the name of the picture and identifies whether it contains the short A sound. If it does, she places the card on the alligator's back. If it doesn't, she places the card in a separate pile. The children continue until all the cards have been chosen. For more practice with the short A sound, have each child complete a copy of page 7.



Later, Alligator!

Completing a writing prompt

How would your youngsters get rid of alligators under their beds? You'll find out when students practice writing skills with this crafty alligator! Gather the supplies below and then guide each youngster through the directions shown to make an alligator. When the alligator is dry, write the prompt shown on its snout. Help each student write a sentence on the alligator's tongue to complete the prompt. Go away, alligator!

Supplies:

hole punch
2 green construction paper heads
length of white yarn
scissors
stapler
pink construction paper tongue

glue
two 3 oz. paper cups
green tempera paint
paintbrush
2 white construction paper eyes
black marker

Setup:

Hole-punch the edge of one alligator head as shown. To keep the yarn from being pulled through while lacing, tie an end of the length of yarn to the first hole.

Steps:

1. Lace the yarn through the holes in the head cutout. (Tie the remaining end to the last hole and clip off any extra yarn.)
2. Glue the tongue to the remaining head cutout. (Staple the cutouts together to make an upper and a lower jaw.)
3. Paint the cups green. Allow the paint to dry.
4. Use the marker to draw pupils on the eyes. Then glue an eye to each cup.
5. Glue the cups to the head. Set the project aside to dry.

