

Chowder

By Peter Brown

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Summary: Chowder is not an ordinary dog. In fact, his unique hobbies and interests make it difficult for him to make friends with other dogs. When Chowder sees a billboard for a petting zoo with crazy critters, he knows this is his chance to find new friends and seizes the opportunity.

Common Core Objectives: English Language Arts Standards: Speaking and Listening: Grade 2

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.SL.2.1 Participate in collaborative conversations with diverse partners about *grade 2 topics and texts* with peers and adults in small and larger groups.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.SL.2.1a Follow agreed-upon rules for discussions (e.g., gaining the floor in respectful ways, listening to others with care, speaking one at a time about the topics and texts under discussion).

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.SL.2.1b Build on others' talk in conversations by linking their comments to the remarks of others.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.SL.2.1c Ask for clarification and further explanation as needed about the topics and texts under discussion.

Activity

My First Book Club

1. Invite staff, parents and volunteers to participate in the students' first book club.
2. Divide students into small groups of peers and adults.
3. Have students create a name for their book club and establish a list of ground rules. (Be respectful, stay on topic, speak one at a time, etc)
4. Provide each group with a copy of **Chowder** to read together and a set of discussion questions.
5. Help the groups stay on track by ringing a bell to indicate when it is time to move on to the next question.
6. After all questions have been discussed, bring everyone back together to ask if there are any more questions, assess the success of the group discussion and congratulate students on completing their very first book club!

Discussion Questions

1. Where does Chowder take place?
2. Who are the main characters?

3. What do you think of the illustrations? Use good descriptive words!
4. If you take away the text from the first three pages, what can you learn about Chowder just by looking at the illustrations?
5. In the beginning, Chowder's only real friends were his owners the Wubbingtons. Why do you think it was hard for him to make friends?
6. Chowder came up with a big plan to make new friends at the Critter Corral and it almost didn't work. Have you ever made big plans that did or didn't work?
7. How did Chowder feel after kicking the ball into the tree?
8. How does the story end? Is it a good ending to the book?
9. Just for fun, what can you imagine Chowder and his new friends doing together?