

Piggies in Pajamas

Picture Book Teaching Activity Guide

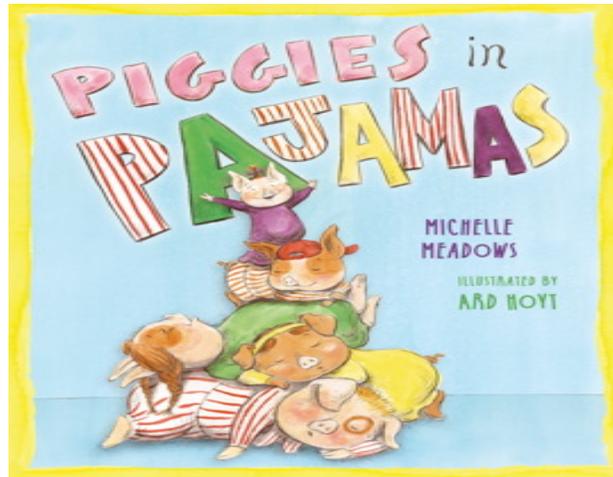
(Pre-k - 2nd Grade)

Written by Michelle Meadows

Illustrated by Ard Hoyt

Published by Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers

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Book Summary

Piggies in Pajamas is a companion to a picture book called Piggies in the Kitchen. In Piggies in Pajamas, the five piglets delay bedtime for as long as they can. While Mama snacks in the kitchen and chats on the phone, these piggies are not ready for bed! Playing and dancing and building forts—will they ever get to sleep?

Story Behind the Story

Michelle Meadows, the author of this book, has one son. She imagined a whole crew of pig siblings who are just like her son. He loved to make a lot of noise at bedtime. One night, her son heard a noise at his bedroom window and got scared. It was just a little tree branch. He climbed into the author's bed while she was in her bathroom washing her face. Just like the Mama Pig in this book!

<http://www.michellemeadows.com>

Piggies in Pajamas Teaching Activities Linked to Common Core State Standards (CCSS) English Language Arts

Themes: Pigs, Family, Mothers, Sleep/Bedtime, Siblings, Fun, Rhyme/Poetry; CCSS: Actively engage in group reading activities with purpose and understanding.

1. Anatomy of a Picture Book

CCSS: Name the author and illustrator of a story and define the role of each in telling the story.

CCSS: Distinguish between information provided by pictures or other illustrations and information provided by the words in a text.

- ✓ Discuss the role of the author Michelle Meadows (words/text) and the illustrator Ard Hoyt (pictures) and how both play a role in conveying a story.
- ✓ In a picture book, illustrators use the text as a jumping-off point; the text inspires illustrators to express their creativity through visual pictures. Discuss these specific examples:
 - The Piggies in Pajamas text mentions “piggies” but doesn’t say how many piggies are in the family. The illustrator decided how many piggies to illustrate.
 - The text describes what the piggies are doing, but the text doesn’t describe what the piggies look like. The illustrator decided how the piggies would look and what they would wear.

2. Comprehension

CCSS: Ask and answer questions about key details in the text.

CCSS: Describe characters, settings, and major events in a story, using key details.

CCSS: Use information gained from the illustrations and words in a print or digital text to demonstrate understanding of its characters, setting, or plot.

- ✓ Who does Mama Pig talk with on the phone?
- ✓ Explain that Piggies in Pajamas is fiction. Discuss what elements make the story a work of fiction.
- ✓ Discuss the characters: The characters in Piggies in Pajamas love to have fun. After reading Piggies in Pajamas, ask students to recall how many pigs are in the story and who the different pigs are. What would you name each pig? Make a list of the pigs as a group activity (Eg. Baby pig, big sister pig...)

- ✓ Discuss the setting: What is the setting of this story? Where do the pigs live? What do the pigs' beds look like?

3. Story Structure

CCSS: Describe the overall structure of a story, including describing how the beginning introduces the story and the ending concludes the action.

CCSS: Describe how characters in a story respond to major events and challenges.

- ✓ Every story has a beginning, middle, and end. Use a board or flip chart. As a group, discuss what major events happen in the beginning, the middle, and the end.
- ✓ Every story has a problem. As a group, make a list of the problems the piggies encounter.
 - What activities do the piggies engage in when they should be sleeping?
 - What do the piggies do when they hear Mama coming?
 - Why do the piggies leave their room and go to Mama's room?
- ✓ What does Mama do when she finds the piggies in her bed?

4. Rhyme Time

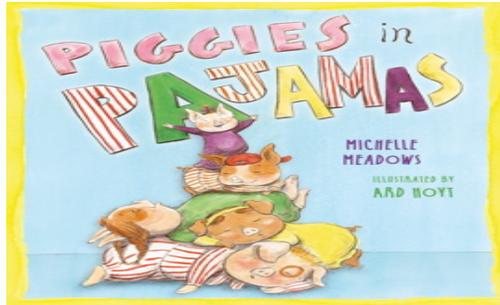
CCSS: Demonstrate understanding of spoken words, syllables, and sounds (phonemes).

CCSS: Describe how words and phrases (e.g., regular beats, alliteration, rhymes, repeated lines) supply rhythm and meaning in a story, poem, or song.

- ✓ Piggies in Pajamas is a story in rhyme. Discuss the definition of rhyme. Rhyming words end in the same sound.
- ✓ Give students a word from the book and have them brainstorm corresponding rhyming words as a group. AIR: What rhymes with air? Ask students to name any rhyming words they can think of.
- ✓ Ask students to identify rhyming words through the Piggies in Pajamas matching exercise on the next page.

Piggies in Pajamas

Rhyme Time Matching Activity



Draw a line to connect each word on the left side of the page with a rhyming word on the right side of the page. These words are from *Piggies in Pajamas*, written by Michelle Meadows and illustrated by Ard Hoyt.

phone

air

track

doll

door

boom

hide

way

cat

noise

room

back

play

alone

toys

inside

scare

chat

hall

floor

5. Projects

CCSS: Participate in shared research and writing projects.

CCSS: Speak audibly and express thoughts, feelings, and ideas clearly.

CCSS: Write opinion pieces in which students introduce the topic or name the book they are writing about, state an opinion, supply a reason for the opinion, and provide some sense of closure.

CCSS: Add drawings or other visual displays to descriptions as desired to provide additional detail.

CCSS: Compare characteristics of animals that make them alike and different from other animals and nonliving things.

- ✓ Ask students to choose their favorite pig from the story and present facts about why they made their selection.
- ✓ Ask students to draw a picture of their favorite pig from Piggies in Pajamas.
- ✓ In Piggies in Pajamas, the pigs do not want to go to bed. Ask students to write about their bedtime. What time do you go to bed? Where do you sleep? What does your room look like?
- ✓ As a vocabulary builder, discuss characteristics of pigs (Eg., snout, curly tail, pink color etc.) Discuss what makes pigs different from other animals.
- ✓ Parts of Speech: Ask children to identify verbs, nouns, and adjectives in the text of Piggies in Pajamas.
- ✓ Show children how to make an [egg carton pig](#) or a [cute CD pig](#).
- ✓ Check out more [pig crafts for kids](#).