

## Just Me and My Mom by Mercer Mayer



**STORY DESCRIPTION:** Little Critter enjoys a special day in the city with his mother. He means well, but gets himself in trouble all along the way. His mother is oh so patient when Critter loses the train tickets, picks up a dinosaur egg in the natural history museum, and misbehaves at lunch. In spite of his difficulties, Little Critter happily falls asleep on the train going home, exhausted from the big outing with his mother.

**SUBJECT:** Social-Emotional Learning

**GRADE LEVELS:** Preschool, Pre-K, K

### USING omBooks IN THE CLASSROOM

#### Reading Modes

##### *Read it Myself*

- Read the story to your students or have the students read the story themselves
- Turn the pages to read at your own pace

##### *Read to Me*

- Follow along as the story is read by the narrator
- Turn the pages to read at your own pace

##### *Auto Play*

- Follow along as the story is read by a narrator
- Pages turn automatically for reading at a controlled pace

#### Interactive Features

- Tap a picture to hear and see the word associated with it
- Tap on an individual word to hear it pronounced
- Touch and hold a paragraph to hear it read by a narrator
- Find the creatures throughout the story! Tap on them to count them.

## **Reading Dynamics**

### *Large Group*

- Connect your iOS or Android device to your classroom projector, TV, or computer monitor (see *How-To Guide*).
- Use the *Read it Myself* mode to read the story aloud, or use the *Read to Me* or *Auto Play* modes to present the story to the entire class.
- Use the discussion questions on page 3 to guide a whole-class discussion.
- Alternatively, if your students can read, project the questions on the screen. Invite students to partner up and discuss the story in pairs. Ask them to record their discussion on the iOS or Android device so you can assess their work.

### *Small Groups*

- Gather a small group of students and display the iOS or Android device so all can see.
- Use the *Read it Myself* mode to read the story aloud, or use the *Read to Me* or *Auto Play* modes to present the story to the small group.
- Use the discussion questions on page 3 to guide a group discussion.

### *Partners*

- If you have enough devices in the classroom, invite students to read or listen to the story in pairs.
- Students can take turns reading pages, asking questions, and supporting each other.
- If your students can read, give them the discussion questions from page 3. Ask them to record their discussion on the iOS or Android device so you can assess their work.
- If your students are non-readers, invite the class to come back together as a large group. Guide a class discussion using the discussion questions on page 3.

### *Independent*

- If you have enough devices in the classroom, invite students to read or listen to the story independently.
- Students can use the interactive features to support their reading, and each student can explore the text and illustrations at an individualized pace.
- If your students can read, give them the discussion questions from page 3 and ask them to type or record their responses on the device.
- If your students are non-readers, invite the class to come back together as a large group. Guide a class discussion using the discussion questions on page 3.

## DISCUSSING THE STORY

1. What does Little Critter do with his mom in this story?
2. Little Critter and his mom are in a city. Do you live in a city? Have you ever been to a city? Compare and contrast different types of places (give examples of rural, suburban, and urban settings and ask students about their similarities and differences).
3. Are there any funny parts in this story? What parts do you think are funny? Why?
4. Do you think Little Critter's mom is patient? What does *patient* mean?
5. Can you think of a time when your mom was patient with you?
6. Do you think Little Critter likes spending time with his mom? How do you think he feels when it's just him and his mom?
7. How do you feel when you get special time with your mom? What do you like to do with your mom?

## EXTENDING THE LEARNING

Support students in using the iOS or Android device as a tool to extend their learning. Some ideas:

- **Email your mom:** This story is all about Little Critter and his mom. Encourage your students to think about something they like about their moms. Have each student type or dictate an email to his/her mom telling her what they like most about her.
- **Tell a transmedia story:** Ask your students to imagine a day in the city with their moms. What might they do there? Support your students in creating a transmedia story about it. Use some or all of the following media:
  - Produce a movie
  - Record a story and save it as an audio file to play back or share
  - Perform a digital puppet show using a puppet app
  - Draw or paint scenes to create a slideshow

## SHARING YOUR WORK

Have you used the [Just Me and My Mom](#) omBook in your class? We'd love to hear about it! To share your experience, please visit the Education Center on our Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/OceanhouseMedia](http://www.facebook.com/OceanhouseMedia) .

## DOWNLOADING THE APPS

omBooks (Oceanhouse Media Digital Books) are available for purchase in the following stores:

