

Just a Mess by Mercer Mayer



STORY DESCRIPTION: Little Critter's search for his baseball mitt leads him to the doorway of his bedroom which is "just a mess." Little Critter's unique attempts at cleaning, accompanied with humorous illustrations, will leave parents and children laughing and wondering if he will ever find his baseball mitt.

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. Why couldn't Little Critter find his baseball mitt?
2. Why did Little Critter clean his room by himself?
3. Did he do a good job of cleaning his room?
4. Have you ever lost something? How did it feel? Did you find it? How?
5. Do you clean your room at home? When? How? Do you clean your room by yourself or with help?

EXTENDING THE LEARNING

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

- **Lost and found:** Discuss ways to prevent losing things at school (being mindful, keeping the classroom tidy, checking the playground for left-behind items before going inside). Then create a solution for finding things that are already lost. When your students find a lost item at school, ask them to take a picture of the item using the mobile device. For example, if someone leaves a sweater on the playground and Sally finds it, she could take a picture of the sweater. Assist the class in uploading the pictures of lost items to a social media site of your choice (perhaps you have a class Twitter account, a blog, or school-wide social network like Edmodo). Teach digital literacy while providing a solution to a common problem!
- **Tell a transmedia story:** Encourage your students to think about a time when they couldn't find something they were looking for. What happened? How did they feel? 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 a Mess](#) 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.

DOWNLOADING THE APPS

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

