

PUDDLEDUCK

INTRODUCE THE STORY

Introduce a treasured stuffed animal to the students. Discuss how you got it, how long you've had it, what it means to you, where you keep it. Use any stuffed animal if you haven't one of your own, and make up a scenario for it. There won't be much time for you to talk anyway, because soon students will be bursting with information about their own precious stuffed friends.

Then introduce the idea of losing this treasured toy – how would they feel?

How might they try to find it?

After exploring this idea, read the book.

EXAMINE THE STORY

1. After PuddleDuck disappears, Bianca's room is "so quiet that it was loud." What do you think this means?
2. A simile is when you compare one thing to something else, using the word "like" or "as". When autumn comes and the leaves start to fall, the author compares them to something, using a simile. What are they compared to?

List two of the stories that are inside this object.

3. Why do Bianca's father and sister try to give her new stuffed animals?

Are they successful in what they try to do?

4. There are two times in this story when Bianca is sitting on her father's lap, reading and talking. Using the pictures and the words, find two ways that these times are similar, and two ways that they are different.
5. When the ducks returned in the spring, why was Bianca sure that one was PuddleDuck? Try to find two reasons.
6. Why are there three dots at the end of the last line of the story?

What would the next line be?

7. Parts of this book take place in each of the four seasons. Look through and list at least one event that takes place in spring, one in summer, one in autumn and one in winter.
8. Most stories have a beginning, middle and ending. Think about this one. Now in 2 or 3 sentences, describe what happens in the beginning of the story. Then use the same number of sentences to describe the middle, and then the ending.

EXTEND THE STORY

1. PuddleDuck disappeared. Where do *you* think he went? Did he become a real duck, or did he get lost that day? Tell your story.
2. Do you have a stuffed animal or toy from when you were born, or when you were a smaller child?

What is it?

Do you keep it someplace special?

What is its name?

3. If you were to meet Bianca, what three questions would you ask her?
4. At the end of the book, the grown-up Bianca tells her daughter the story of PuddleDuck. Have either of your parents told you a story about when they were little? What is the story?
5. Imagine that when Bianca went to the pond, the duck she thought was PuddleDuck swam right up to her so she could pick him up. Write a new ending for the story with this idea.

LINKS TO OTHER SUBJECTS

ART

Divide your paper into four equal sections, then draw or paint Bianca in each season, as related to PuddleDuck. Is she searching for him? Building a snow duck? Trying to talk to him? Make sure your background indicates which season it is.

Draw or paint PuddleDuck as a stuffed animal, and then as a live animal. Read the description in the book closely. What color eyes does he have? He is white, but what color shines in his feathers?

SCIENCE

Research on ducks

SOCIAL STUDIES

Ask your parents to tell you stories about when they were little. Write them down in a family journal. Ask your grandparents as well. These are precious treasures in your family – collect as many as you can! If you like, add some of your own adventures.

RELATED BOOKS

Another PuddleDuck:

The Tale of Jemima Puddle-Duck by Beatrix Potter (Warne, 1908)

Another duck:

One Duck by Hazel Hutchins (Annick, 1999)

Stuffed animal stories:

The Velveteen Rabbit by Margery Williams (Doubleday, 1958)

Corduroy by Don Freeman (Viking, 1968)

A lost book, not a lost toy:

Stella Louella's Runaway Book by Lisa Campbell Ernst (Simon & Schuster, 1998)

PuddleDuck

D O M T R A R R S D M J H K H
I R V T U X E X T U F J Z K D
Q S Q T L D H E U C P Y S L R
Y U U H N A T F F K M P O L S
F M A E Y B A L F O O G X T Z
N E V C A E F U E N I W C O O
S A A F K C O B D T R O L L D
L M H T N B N C U C D Q Y W Q
W Q S L H L G A Z C D N O P Q
X G H X R E T S I S G D L I W
Y K H E G M R L R B N B G P E
Z T W K M W W S N I Y A R K R
D X F X T F E R W P S W G E D
D A U G H T E R H K W T N O A
X R H I P W E T K M R I M X P

AUTUMN

DUCK

LAVENDER

SISTER

TROLL

BIANCA

FATHER

POND

STUFFED

WILD

DAUGHTER

FEATHERS

QUACK

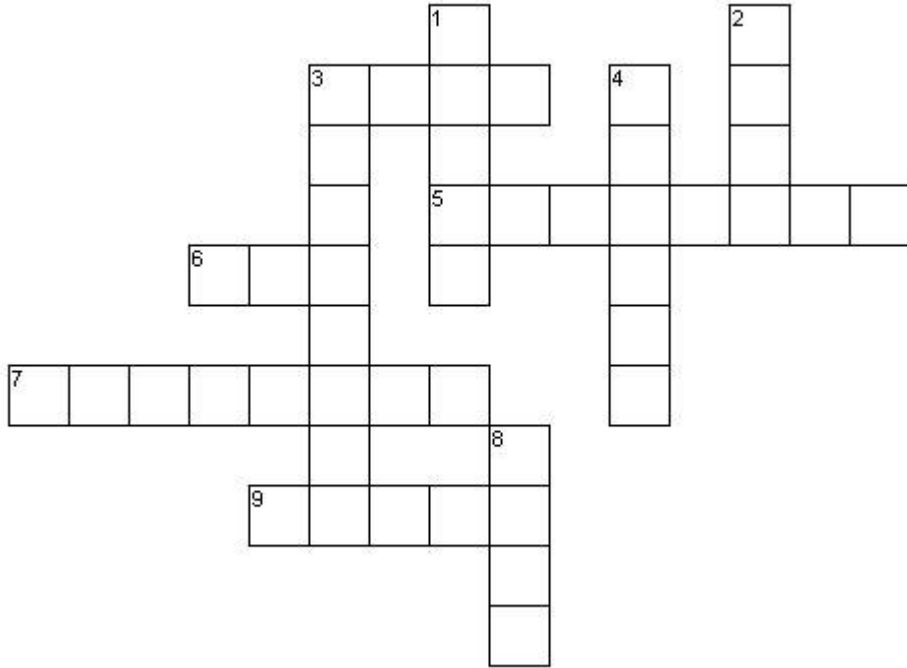
TOY

WINDOW

Word Search Solution

D O M T R A R R S D M J H K H
I R V T U X E X T U F J Z K D
Q S Q T L D H E U C P Y S L R
Y U U H N A T F F K M P Q L S
F M A E Y B A L F O O G X T Z
N E V C A E F U E N I W C O O
S A A F K C O B D T R O L L D
L M H T N B N C U C D Q Y W Q
W Q S L H L G A Z C D N O P Q
X G H X R E T S I S G D L I W
Y K H E G M R L R B N B G P E
Z T W K M W W S N I Y A R K R
D X F X T F E R W P S W G E D
D A U G H T E R H K W T N O A
X R H I P W E T K M R I M X P

PuddleDuck



ACROSS

3. How Bianca's room seemed without PuddleDuck
5. The color of PuddleDuck's coat.
6. Her sister brought Bianca this stuffed animal from her own collection.
7. PuddleDuck was given to Bianca when she was in the _____.
9. The color of the other ducks.

DOWN

1. At the toy store, Bianca saw a stuffed cat and a _____.
2. Where Bianca was when PuddleDuck disappeared.
3. When she was grown up, Bianca told the PuddleDuck story to her _____.
4. Bianca searched in this tree for PuddleDuck.
8. Bianca made a _____ duck in the winter.

Crossword Puzzle Solution

