

# We Share Everything!

By Robert Munsch

Illustrations by Michael Martchenko

Big Books are a wonderful way to share picture books with a group of children. Every teacher and every group is different; this guide is designed to provide a few suggestions for using Robert Munsch's *We Share Everything* with your students.

For a general guide to using big books in the classroom,  
go to [www.scholastic.ca/bigbooks](http://www.scholastic.ca/bigbooks)

## Summary:

On the first day of kindergarten, Amanda and Jeremiah fight about books, blocks and paints. The teacher reminds them that in kindergarten, they should share. Amanda and Jeremiah interpret her message literally, and share their clothes with each other.

## Background:

Robert Munsch told this story to children for many years before it became a book. He met the real Amanda and Jeremiah on a visit to a class in Pontiac, Michigan, and knew that they would be perfect for the story! Amanda and Jeremiah sent him photographs of themselves and their classroom to help Michael Martchenko with the illustrations.

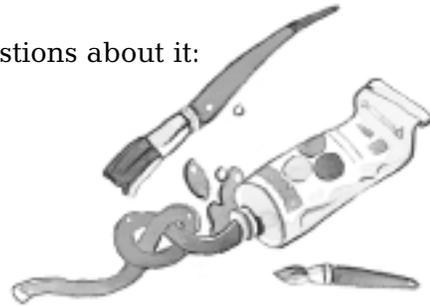




## Before Reading

Show the front cover to the class. Ask the children questions about it:

- What do you see?
- What do you think the story might be about?
- Where do you think the children are?
- What are they doing?
- Can you read the title?
- What do you notice about it?
- Who is the author? The illustrator?
- What questions do you think might be answered in this story?



Show the back cover.

(Note: Conceal or omit reading the story description, and consider having the students write their own "blurbs" after you have read the story.)

- What do you think is happening in the illustration?
- Whose photographs are shown below?

Share the information about the author and illustrator with the class.

Read the dedication page.

- Who do you think Amanda and Jeremiah are?

Write the students' answers on the board or on a flip chart, with their initials next to each answer. Leave these up as you read the book.

## Sharing the Book

Now you are ready to read *We Share Everything!* aloud to the group. Robert Munsch is first and foremost a storyteller, and his books are perfect for dramatic reading. Use your voice to emphasize the sound effects (*BLUMPH!*; *GAWCK!*; *Ouch! Ouch! Owww!* and the refrain:

"Now, LOOK!  
This is kindergarten!  
In kindergarten we share.  
We share *everything!*"

Now go back to the thoughts that the students shared with the group before you began reading. Let the children find their initials on the board; read their predictions, and discuss what really happened. There are sure to be matches, and this is an opportunity to praise the children's predictions.

Take time to let the students express their reactions to the book. Recap the story with the group. Note what happened first, next and last. You can ask questions such as:

- What was it like on your own first day of school?
- Did you think that Jeremiah would share the blocks?
- Did you think that Amanda would share the book? Did you think that Jeremiah would share the blocks?
- What part of the story did you like best?
- What illustrations did you especially like?
- Did you ever have a problem with sharing?

## Re-Reading

Now read *We Share Everything!* again with the group, but this time stop for questions and comments on every page. Read a page, then invite comments on the story and the illustrations. When questions come up, ask the other students to suggest answers, and discuss the varying opinions. Take your time and examine each page closely. To stimulate discussion, you could ask questions like the ones below.

Specific pages:

- p. 7: What does the picture tell you about how Amanda and Jeremiah might feel?
- p. 15: Why would the illustrator draw birds and flowers around the teacher?
- p. 17: Do you know the name of the famous structure that Jeremiah built?
- p. 24-25: What are the other students doing? Why?
- p. 31: Does this classroom look like our own classroom? In what ways? In what ways is it different?

General:

- What might your parents say if you came home wearing different clothes?
- What problems did Amanda and Jeremiah have? How might they have solved their problems?
- Why do you think the noises and sound effects are in different print from the rest of the book?
- How many of Robert Munsch's books can you find in the illustrations?

When there are disagreements, go back to the book. Re-read and listen for clarification. Be open to alternative ideas and make sure all the children's ideas are treated seriously and thoughtfully.

On subsequent re-readings, encourage the children to chime in. Some will read along with you; others will join in on the refrain. Try some *oral cloze*. When you come to a part you think most will remember, pause and let the children "fill in" the words for you. You can also use little sticky notes to cover up individual words and practice *written cloze*, again allowing the children to fill in the missing words.



## Sharing Rules! (Social studies/language arts activity)

- ☉ Discuss the idea of sharing. Ask:  
What things are appropriate to share in the classroom? What things might not be?  
Note that when they didn't share, Amanda and Jeremiah argued and did things that were unsafe. Discuss how the other children in the class may have felt.
- ☉ Explain that in order to avoid these situations, we have class rules. Brainstorm rules that the class should have and list them on chart paper.
- ☉ Ask students to choose one rule and illustrate it.

## We Share Stories (Language arts activity)

- ☉ Involve students in writing a collaborative story to show what they can do when they share. Each child can add a sentence, a paragraph, or an idea. When the story is complete, you can share it by posting it in the hallway, and maybe by sending it to Robert Munsch himself!



ISBN-13 978-0-545-99301-2 / ISBN-10 0-545-99301-6

Portions of this teaching guide were adapted from *Teaching with Robert Munsch Books, Volume 1*, by Amy von Heyking and Janet McConaghy.

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Printed in Canada

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