

PIG THE PUG

*Pig was a Pug
and I'm sorry to say,
he was greedy and selfish
in most every way . . .*

Pig the Pug lives in a flat with a sausage dog named Trevor. He has so many great toys to play with, but he won't share them with anyone! When Trevor suggests that they might have more fun playing together, Pig flips his wig! An hilarious book about learning to share from the much-loved, award-winning Aaron Blabey.

Teacher Notes

- Why is it important to share? What are the benefits of sharing? Do you agree with Trevor that it's more fun to play with your friends? Why/why not? What games do you like to play with your friends?
- What is the moral of a story? What kinds of stories have morals? Does **Pig the Pug** have a moral? What would you say is the moral of this story?
- What other morals can you think of? As a class, list some other morals that would work well in a story (HINT: you might look to **Aesop's Fables** as a source of simple morals). Choose one moral that isn't found in **Pig the Pug**, then try to create your own picture book to convey that moral. Think about how Aaron Blabey conveys the moral of his book (eg drama, humour, simple illustrations). How will you convey your moral story?
- Does Pig deserve what happens to him? Why/why not? Why do you think the author chose to teach Pig a lesson in such a dramatic way?
- Look at the last three spreads of **Pig the Pug**. How does the story build up to the revelation of what has happened to Pig? What effect does this big reveal have?
- Is **Pig the Pug** what you expected from a children's story? Why/why not? What do you expect from children's stories? As a class, read the following stories from the Brothers Grimm:
 - Cinderella
 - The Goose Girl
 - Hansel and Gretel
 - Snow White
 - The Frog King, or Iron Henry
 - The Wolf and the Seven Little Kids
 - The Six Swans.

Do these stories meet your expectations of tales written for children? Why/why not? What, if anything, are the morals of these stories? Do you think these morals are effectively communicated?

- Is **Pig the Pug** a humorous story? What makes it funny? How do the illustrations work together with the text to make the story humorous? How does the author use humour to convey the moral of the story?
- Pig is a pug dog, and Trevor is a sausage dog. What other kinds of dogs can you think of? Create a class list of different species of dogs. Pick one dog from the class list and find out some more about it. How big does it get? Where did the species come from? Write all the interesting things you learned about your chosen dog species, then find a picture of it and create a one-page report. The reports can be compiled into a class guidebook on dogs.