

Do Unto Otters: A Book About Manners

By: Laurie Keller

Illustrated By: Laurie Keller

Publisher: Henry Holt & Co.

Copyright: 2007

Art Medium: Acrylic paint on Arches watercolor paper

Genre: Humorous stories

SUMMARY: When otters move in, rabbit wonders how they'll get along. Mr. Owl tells him about the Golden Rule. Rabbit hopes the otters will be friendly, polite, honest, kind, cooperative, play fair, share, apologetic, and forgiving.

BOOKTALK: What characteristics do you think a friend should have? Can otters and a rabbit get along? Read and find out!

AUTHOR AND ILLUSTRATOR:

Laurie Keller

Laurie Keller is the author of several books for children including *Arnie the Doughnut* and *The Scrambled States of America*. She lives in Michigan. For more information about her, please visit the author's website at <http://www.lauriekeller.com>.

Other books written and/or illustrated by the author include:

The Scrambled States of America

Arnie the Doughnut

Open Wide: Tooth School Inside

Grandpa Gazillion's Number Yard

The Scrambled States of America: Talent Show

CHALLENGING WORDS (pronunciation, spelling, defining):

Friendliness; bouncy; rehearsal; interrupting; promises; considerate; littering; creatures; respecting; untangle; appreciate; cooperate; favorite; activities; apologize; forgiving

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Why are manners necessary?
2. Which manners are most important? Or, are they all important?
3. What would you do in a situation where someone was rude/didn't use manners?
4. What traits do you value in a friend?
5. What parts of the story did you find funniest? Why?
6. Explain the Golden Rule to the class, if you have not discussed it before. How is it similar to what the owl tells the otters?

SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES:

Language Arts

- Perform the book as a Readers' Theater. Simplify the book if you feel it's necessary.
- Role-play to responding politely in various situations.
- Have your students write a paragraph about a time when they used good manners.

Science

- Compare and contrast otters and rabbits. Do they have any similarities? How are they different? Would they actually be neighbors in the wild?

Social Studies

- The otters can say "Please," "Thank You," and "Excuse Me" in five different languages. Teach the kids some other basic words (related to manners or not) in these languages. Or, teach them the same phrases in languages other than the five already in the book.
- Study a bit about each of the countries mentioned above (Spain, France, Germany, and Japan).

Life Skills: Personal Best, No Put-Downs, and Caring

INTERNET SITES:

The author's website contains many great suggestions for additional classroom activities. Please visit it at http://www.lauriekeller.com/schoolstuff_otters.html

DOO DEE DOO
MR. RABBIT
MR. OWL
NEIGHBORS
DO UNTO OTTERS
FRIENDLY
NICE SMILE
CHEERFUL HELLO
GOOD EYE CONTACT
POLITE
PLEASE
THANK YOU
EXCUSE ME

HONEST
KEEP PROMISES
NOT LIE
NOT
CHEAT
CONSIDERATE
KIND
COOPERATE
PLAY FAIR
SHARE
DON'T TEASE
APOLOGIZE
FORGIVING

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

From Laurie Keller's website:

http://www.lauriekeller.com/download/otters_wordsearch.pdf

DO UNTO OTTERS

MULTIPLE CHOICE



CONSIDERATE

A) thoughtful B) chilly C) hungry

COOPERATE

A) to have surgery B) to work well together C) to eat in a coop

FRIENDLY

A) showing friendship B) showing off C) showing your underwear

HONEST

A) youthful B) tooth-ful C) truthful

POLITE

A) having feathers B) having blonde hair C) having manners

SHARE

A) to divide among others B) to collect buttons C) to sing with rabbits

KIND

A) good-hearted B) wood-hearted C) schmood-hearted

APOLOGIZE

A) to say you're tired B) to say you're shrinking C) to say you're sorry

FORGIVE

A) to cut in line B) to pardon an offense C) to hop like a bunny

From Laurie Keller's website:

http://www.lauriekeller.com/download/Otters_multiple.pdf