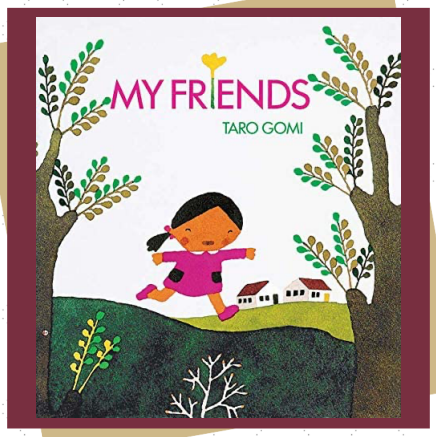


BEYOND THE BOOK GUIDE

My Friends by Taro Gomi

Book Summary

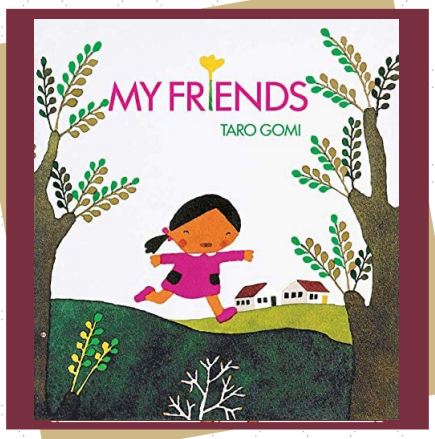
A little girl learns to walk, climb, and study the earth from her friends, most of whom are animals. This story shows children that sometimes their knowledge can come from all kinds of friends.

Before Reading the Story

- Discuss what you see on the cover of the book.
- Make predictions on what the story may be about.
- Who are your friends?
- What are some things that you learn from your friends?
- What are some ways you can be a good friend?
- Who has been a good friend to you and how have they been a good friend?

Target Vocabulary

- **learn**: to get to know or gain knowledge of
- **march**: to walk with steady, regular steps together with others
- **nap**: to sleep for a short time during daylight hours
- **explore**: to search through
- **earth**: soil or dirt
- **study**: the act of using the mind to learn



BEYOND THE BOOK GUIDE

During the Story

- Read the book aloud with the pictures facing your child.
- Make predictions about the story based on the pictures.
- Provide definitions and connections for any of the target vocabulary words that may be unfamiliar.
- Have your child repeat the words that they do not know.
- Relate the details in the story to events and experiences in your everyday life.
- Ask questions throughout the story to help your child understand what's being read.

After Reading the Story

- Have your child retell the story in their own words using the pictures.
- The little girl learned how to explore from an ant. Let's look up a video on YouTube, to see what's inside an anthill and how ants explore.
- The little girl learned to watch the night sky. Tell me what you have seen when you have looked at the night sky?
- What is your favorite song to sing? Let's sing it together.
- Using a piece of paper and art supplies, draw a picture of you and your friends.

Example Questions to Ask

- Which of the little girl's friends is the smallest animal? Which is the largest animal? Which is the fastest animal? Which animal has the sharpest teeth?
- Look through each page of the book. Tell me all of the sounds that her friends make?
- The little girl has a love for learning different things. What are the things that you love to learn about? Who do you learn them from?