Themes: School, Rules, Patience, Figurative Language

Book Brief: Amelia is excited about her first day of school, maybe a little too excited. From her first “jump” off the bus to being stuck at the end of the day in her seat, Amelia’s literal interpretation of everything creates a funny but somewhat frustrating day for all involved.

Author: Herman Parish
Illustrator: Lynne Avril

TIME TO READ!

Before reading, make predictions: What types of activities will Amelia do on her first day of school? Do you think she is excited, scared or nervous? Do you think Amelia will make friends easily?

While reading, make connections: How is Amelia’s first day like one of your first days of school? How is it different? What do you do if you have a friend that is having trouble with directions or rules?

After reading, ask questions:
- Why do you think Amelia Bedelia makes so many mistakes?
- How does the teacher react to Amelia’s mistakes?
- How do her classmates react to her mistakes?
- What do you think the next day will be like for Amelia?
- What does her teacher learn on her first day of school?

RELATED ACTIVITIES

HOMOGRAPH OR HOMOPHONE?
Homographs are words that sound the same, are spelled the same but have different meanings (bark – like on a tree, bark – the sound a dog makes). Homophones are words that sound the same, have different meanings and are spelled differently (tail, tale). Go back through the book and identify the homophones and homonyms. Can you think of other words that you can add to each list? How did this cause confusion for Amelia Bedelia?

SUPER SIMPLE SCHOOL SNACK
Ingredients: hot dog bun, banana, peanut butter (or nut butter for peanut allergies)
Spread peanut butter on inside of hot dog bun. Peel banana. Place banana inside the bun. Slice in half.

TAG YOU’RE IT!
Materials: index card, markers
Name tags can hold more than just a name. Sometimes they have pictures or words to describe the person wearing them. Use the index card and markers to create a one of a kind nametag that lets someone know exactly who you are.

CLAY CREATIONS
Materials: 2 cups flour, 1 cup salt, 1/4 cup corn starch, 1/4 cup white glue, water, bowl
Mix flour, salt and cornstarch in a bowl. Pour in glue and stir. Add water a little at a time until it forms a clay like dough. Remove clay from bowl and begin creating! Will you create a favorite animal like Amelia Bedelia or another type of masterpiece?

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:
OTHER BOOKS BY HERMAN PARISH
Amelia Bedelia Takes the Cake, Amelia Bedelia Makes a Splash, Amelia Bedelia is for the Birds.