



For the Love of Autumn

READ ALOUD GUIDE

Themes: Companionship, Kindness

Book Brief: In this heartwarming story, Miss Parks and her students search for her lost kitten Autumn, leading to an unexpected reunion, a mystery solved, and a surprise discovery of true love.

Author:
Patricia Polacco

Illustrator:
Patricia Polacco

BEFORE READING

The Cover: Ask students to make a prediction about the story based on the cover.

The Pictures: Take a brief picture walk and ask students what they notice.

Prior Knowledge: Ask, “Do you have a pet or know someone with a pet? How would you feel if your pet went missing?”

Vocabulary: Frontload Tier 2 words using the accompanying [Vocabulary Guide](#).

Purpose for Reading: “As we read, think about how Miss Parks shows love for her cat, Autumn, and how the people around her help when things get hard.”

DURING READING

Check for understanding & make connections:

- What kind of teacher is Miss Parks?
- Why is Autumn so important to Miss Parks?
- How does Miss Parks react when Autumn goes missing? How do you think she feels?
- What do the students do to help? Can you think of a time someone helped you when you were feeling sad or worried?

AFTER READING

Our Purpose: Ask, “What are some ways Miss Parks showed love for Autumn?” “How did others show kindness and support to Miss Parks?”

Extending Our Thinking:

- Write a paragraph about someone or something you love and what you would do if you lost it.
- Design a “Missing Pet” poster from Autumn’s point of view.
- Create a storyboard that illustrates key events in the story.

If your students enjoyed this book...

- Encourage them to continue to discuss it and refer to it in other lessons and conversations.
- Let them explore more about the topic by reading other books with similar themes, structure, characters, or content.