



Leo: A Ghost Story

READ ALOUD GUIDE

Themes: Friendship, Belonging, Change

Book Brief: Leo is a friendly ghost who has haunted the same house for years. When a new family makes it clear Leo is unwanted, he must search for belonging with new friends in new places.

Author:
Mac Barnett

Illustrator:
Christian Robinson

BEFORE READING

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

The Pictures: Take a quick picture walk and ask students what they notice about the illustrations.

Prior Knowledge: Ask, "Have you ever tried something new or different? How did it feel and what made it easier?" (Optional: Think-Pair-Share)

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

Purpose for Reading: "As we read, we'll be paying attention to who is in the story, where the story is happening, and what happens. Listen carefully to help you retell the story after reading!"

DURING READING

Check for understanding & make connections:

- Why does Leo need to leave his home?
- What does Leo find hard about his new environment?
- Who invites Leo to play? Why is he nervous to tell them the truth about himself?
- How does Leo help protect his new home?



Think Aloud: "As Leo searches for a new home, he worries he might never find where he belongs. When he meets Jane, she invites him to play and makes him feel welcome. A friend can help us make the best of challenging situations!"

AFTER READING

Our Purpose: "Who were the main characters, where did the story happen, and what were the big events from beginning to end?"

Extending Our Thinking: Ask students, "Have you ever wanted to be friends with someone, but you weren't sure how to say hello—or you worried they wouldn't understand you? What helped you feel brave?" Then introduce [RIF's Story Map](#) to show how Leo's feelings and actions change across the story. Have students complete a Beginning-Middle-End Story Map with both events and feelings

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.