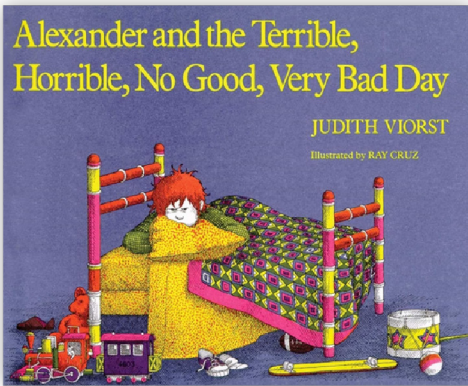




Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day

Author: *Judith Viorst*

Illustrator: *Ray Cruz*

Themes: Bad Days, Empathy, Resilience

Book Brief: From the moment Alexander wakes up with gum in his hair, he knows it will be the worst day ever, and things keep getting more terrible from there. No matter what he tries, nothing goes right, and he is ready to move to Australia. But could it be that bad days happen to everyone, even on the other side of the world?

READ ALOUD

Before Reading: Build Background

- Before you read, tell your child about your own worst day. Ask if they have ever had a day like that.
- Look at the cover together. Ask your child what Alexander's face shows about his feelings.

While Reading: Make Connections

- When Alexander finds only cereal in his box, ask, "How do you think Alexander feels?"
- When Paul says Alexander is his third best friend, ask, "How do you think Alexander feels? How would you feel if someone told you that?"
- When Alexander keeps talking about Australia, ask, "Why do you think Alexander wants to move to Australia?"

After Reading: Ask Questions

- At the end, Alexander's mom says some days are just like that. Ask, "What do you think Alexander's mom meant when she said that?"

RELATED ACTIVITIES

If your child enjoyed this book:

- Try a "Bad Day, Better Day" drawing. Have your child draw one thing that went wrong today. Then flip the page and draw one thing that made it better. Talk together about what helps on a hard day.
- Read more books together by Judith Viorst.
 - Alexander, Who's Not (Do You Hear Me? I Mean It) Going to Move (1995)
 - And Two Boys Booed (2014)