

AFRAID OF YOUR NEIGHBOR TEACHER'S GUIDE

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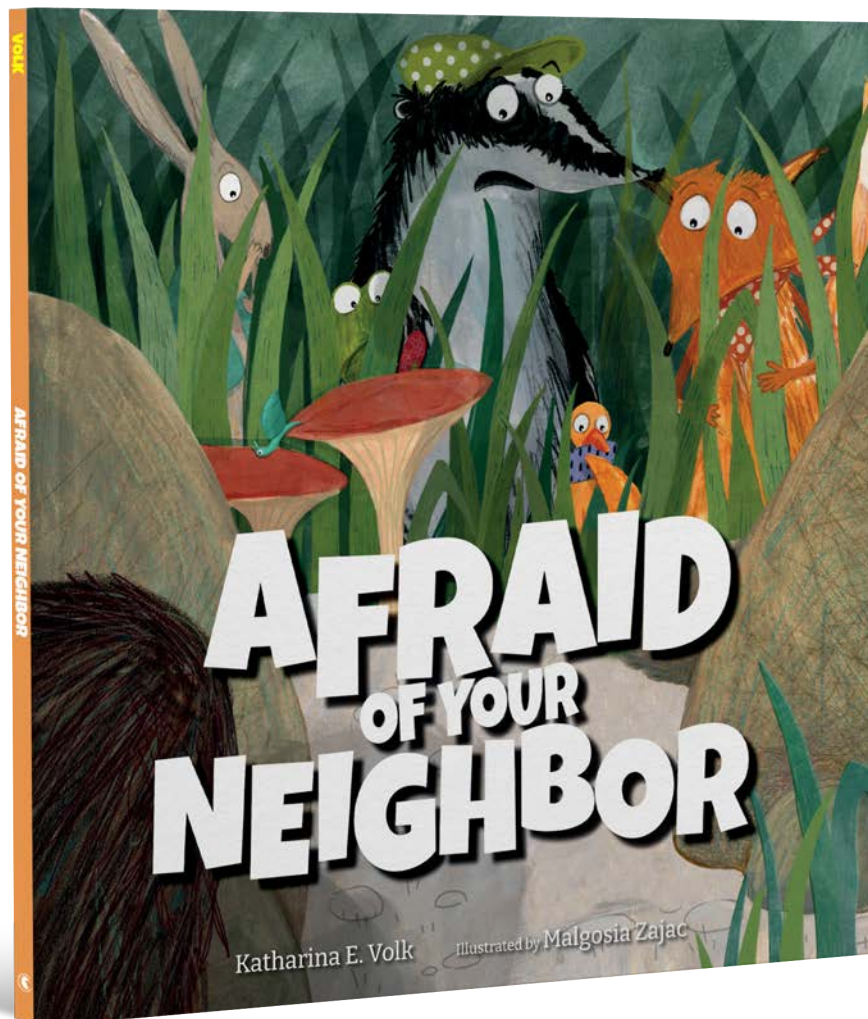
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ABOUT THE BOOK

A story about fear of the unknown, how easy it can be to follow a crowd, and how it only takes one friend to model kindness.

The forest has a new neighbor. No one has met him, but Frog's ball is missing and he's certain the neighbor must have stolen it! Most of the animal friends plan an attack . . . but Mouse has other ideas. She is determined to hear the other side of the story and give the new neighbor a chance. When the ball is returned, will the animal friends learn an important lesson?

Originally published in Belgium and the Netherlands by Clavis Books, the English translation of *Afraid of Your Neighbor* is now being published in North America. This clever fable cautions against the dangers of prejudice and models a heartening example of standing up for what's right—both timely lessons sure to resonate with readers of all ages.





ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Katharina E. Volk was born in springtime into a large family in Witten, Westphalia. She discovered her love of language and poetry even before she graduated from high school. This was followed by a degree in German studies, work in a kindergarten and trips to various professional areas. This brought some inspiration and ultimately led to the creative desk, which is currently situated in Friedrichshafen on Lake Constance in Germany. The author's books are full of endearing beings of all kinds.

ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

Małgorzata Zając is a Polish illustrator. She lives with her family in a very old city called Kraków. This city is known for its famous dragon (unfortunately no longer in good shape) and for Wawel Royal Castle (still in perfect shape). Małgorzata strongly believes that imagination is the most important thing in life. Her head is always full of all kinds of creatures, imaginary friends, magical worlds and entire stories. She uses her drawing skills and different techniques to create those nonexistent worlds on paper. The shelves in Małgorzata's workshop are filled with beautiful books illustrated by her favorite artists from all over the world. She admires them and learns something new from them every day. She dreams that her picture books will one day be on someone's Favorites shelves too.

ABOUT KIND WORLD PUBLISHING

At Kind World Publishing, we connect the world through stories—stories that express kids' big feelings, big questions, and big dreams, stories that celebrate curiosity and build bridges. Our goal is to start conversations that create a kinder world.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

BEFORE READING

1. What does the word *neighbor* mean to you? How do you define it? Who are some of your neighbors?
2. Look at the title of the book. Make a prediction about what you think the book might be about.
3. What things are you afraid of?

DURING READING

1. How is Frog feeling at the beginning of the book? What makes you think so?
2. Mouse hesitates after the other animals say the new resident is a thief. Why do you think Mouse hesitates?
3. How did the situation escalate (get worse)? Why do you think that happened?
4. What other stories does this book remind you of? Why?
5. Mouse keeps trying to interrupt her friends' plans. What would you say if you were Mouse?
6. Why did the other animals not ask any questions? What questions do you think they should have asked?
7. When the group gets to the cave, the text says, "Suddenly, everyone gets a little scared." Why do you think they feel scared?
8. Why does Mouse go inside the cave by herself?
9. How and why did things change at the end?

AFTER READING

1. Were there places in the story where things could have gone differently?
2. If you were one of the animals in the story, what would you have done?
3. Have you ever made an assumption? How or why did that assumption change?
4. If you do not agree with what a group of friends is doing, how could you speak up?

WRITING PROMPTS

1. Learn about the parts of a letter and how to format one. Then write a letter to someone new. Introduce yourself and ask questions about them. (You might write to a new classmate, a teacher or a new neighbor.)
2. Write about something you were afraid of that turned out to be not so scary. Use details to describe the situation, and then explain how your feelings changed.
3. See printable reflection prompts.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

1. Draw a map of the woods and the animals who live there. Label the map with the events of the book. What happened first? What happened next? What happened at the end? Where do the animals start? Where do they go next? Where do they end up? (See printable map template.)
2. Make an invitation for the next event the new friends have together. What kind of event do you think would they have? (See printable invitation template or make your own!)

OTHER PICTURE BOOKS WITH THEMES SIMILAR TO AFRAID OF YOUR NEIGHBOR:

All Are Welcome, written by Alexandra Penfold and illustrated by Suzanne Kaufman

Good Morning, Neighbor, written by Davide Cali and illustrated by Maria Dek

I'm New Here, written and illustrated by Anne Sibley O'Brien

Someone New, written and illustrated by Anne Sibley O'Brien



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Common CORE STATE STANDARDS

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.K.2

With prompting and support, retell familiar stories, including key details.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.1.9

Compare and contrast the adventures and experiences of characters in stories.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.2.1

Ask and answer such questions as who, what, where, when, why, and how to demonstrate understanding of key details in a text.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.2.2

Recount stories, including fables and folktales from diverse cultures, and determine their central message, lesson, or moral.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.2.3

Describe how characters in a story respond to major events and challenges.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.2.2

Recount or describe key ideas or details from a text read aloud or information presented orally or through other media.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.K.3

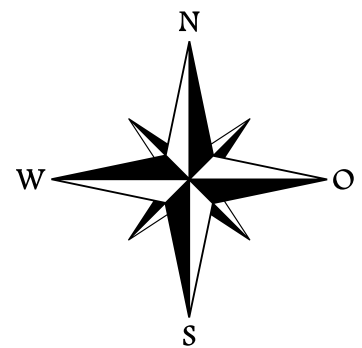
Use a combination of drawing, dictating, and writing to narrate a single event or several loosely linked events, tell about the events in the order in which they occurred, and provide a reaction to what happened.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.K.8

With guidance and support from adults, recall information from experiences or gather information from provided sources to answer a question.

**DRAW A PICTURE OF HOW YOU COULD
MAKE SOMEONE NEW FEEL WELCOME.**

MY MAP



YOU'RE INVITED!



WHERE: _____

WHEN: _____

PLEASE BRING: _____