

Curriculum Guide



Pugtato Finds a Thing

by
Sophie Corrigan

WHEN PUGTATO DIGS UP a strange object in his garden, he enlists his best spuddies to help figure out just what this Thing is.

Tweetroot is certain it's a new egg for her nest. Tomatoad is quite sure it's a toy just for him. Purrsnip simply won't stop scratching it! "Oh, this won't do!" Pugtato says with a sigh. Luckily, he has one more *very* special spuddy to ask . . .

Sophie Corrigan's sweet and heartwarming picture book celebrates the power of friendship, compassion, and believing in your own unique gifts.

★ "In a world where vegetables and animals are merged into one endearing category, this book speaks to a preschooler's sense of silly while also carrying a lesson of loving inclusion."

—*School Library Journal*, starred review

"Diligence and openheartedness are the themes of this rhyming story. . . ."

—*Publishers Weekly*

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The Common Core State Standards addressed by the discussion questions, activities, and worksheets in this guide are noted throughout. For more information on the Common Core, visit corestandards.org.



Discussion Questions



Describe Pugtato. What does he look like?

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.K.1; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.1.1; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.2.1



When Pugtato discovers Thing while planting seeds, he is confused about what it might be. What are your first thoughts about what Thing might be?

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.K.1; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.1.1; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.2.1



Pugtato takes Thing to each of his spuddies for help in determining what it is. Pugtato's first stop is at Tweetroot's shrub. What does Tweetroot do with Thing? Look closely at the illustration where Tweetroot flies off with Thing. Describe the reactions of Pugtato and the surrounding flowers.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.K.1; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.1.1; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.2.1



Describe the differences in Tomatoad and Purrsnip's thoughts about Thing.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.K.1; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.1.1; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.2.1



Most of Pugtato's spuddies want to do something to Thing when they see it. When Pugtato brings Thing to Cowbbage however, the character just stares and moos. Why do you think that Cowbbage doesn't touch Thing to inspect it but instead reacts by mooing?

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.K.3; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.1.3; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.2.3



The Brussels Snouts and Collieflower treat Thing like a toy. How is Croccoli's reaction to Thing different? Why do you think Pugtato runs away with Thing as fast as he can when Croccoli is near?

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.K.1; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.1.1; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.2.1



Pugtato's search for an answer about Thing finally leads him to the wisest spuddy of all. Who is this wise character and what is their advice for Pugtato?

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.K.1; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.1.1; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.2.1



What is finally revealed about what Thing is? Why do you think that Thing hid its identity from the other characters in the story until the very end of Pugtato's journey?

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.K.3; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.1.3; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.2.3



What do Pugtato's actions and behavior tell you about what type of person he is? What important lesson does Pugtato learn by the end of the story?

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.K.3; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.1.3; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.2.3



What type of book is *Pugtato Finds a Thing*? Could the characters exist in real life? Look closely at the illustrations in the story for examples to support your opinion.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.K.7; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.1.7; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.2.7

Activities for Students

The Next Adventure

Pugtato Finds a Thing ends with a happy friendship between Pugtato and Thing, a curly kale snail. The two went through a great deal together on Pugtato's journey to figure out Thing's identity. What do you think happens next for these two new spuddies? Write a sequel to this story. Think of what adventures these two friends could experience. What dialogue would you create between the two main characters? What problem might they face, and how would they solve it? Make sure that your story has a clear beginning, middle, and end. Share your sequels with your class. **CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.K.3; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.1.3; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.2.3**

Puppet Story Time

Author/illustrator Sophie Corrigan created an amazing cast of characters for *Pugtato Finds a Thing*. Work together in a group to create popsicle stick puppets for each character in the story. Use Corrigan's illustrations to help you draw each character on paper. Cut out the characters and glue or tape them to craft sticks. Practice retelling *Pugtato Finds a Thing* as a group using your stick puppets. **CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.K.2; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.1.2; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.2.2**

What Was Thing Thinking?

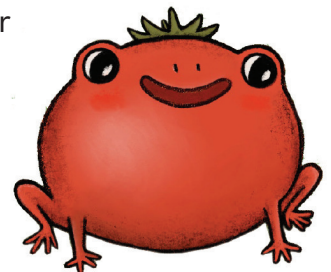
In the book, Pugtato and his spuddies do the talking while Thing remains silent. What do you think Thing was thinking or feeling at each encounter? Did he like flying with Tweetroot? Did Purrsnip's scratching feel good? Was it fun to play with Collieflower? Choose one spuddy and create a three-panel comic strip that shows that encounter with Thing. Include thought and/or speech bubbles that reveal how Thing felt during the interaction.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.K.3; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.1.3; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.2.3

Pugtato's Journey

Design a map of the stops Pugtato makes on his quest to identify Thing. Create a small illustration or symbol for each spuddy Pugtato visits. Make a key for your map which tells what each symbol or picture stands for. Label Pugtato's muddy garden with the word "START." Number each spuddy in the order in which they were visited. Connect each stop on the map with a dashed line to show the path that Pugtato and Thing followed.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.K.2; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.1.2; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.2.2

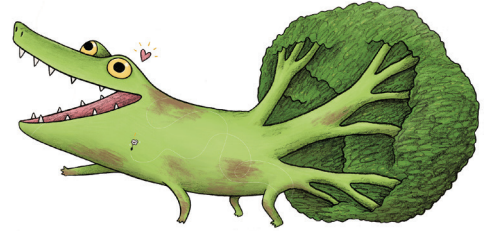


The discussion questions, activities, and worksheets in this guide were created by Leigh Courtney, Ph.D. She teaches in the Global Education program at a public elementary school in San Diego, California. She holds both master's and doctoral degrees in education, with an emphasis on curriculum and instruction.

Name: _____

Name Game

Author/illustrator Sophie Corrigan combines various animals or animal sounds with vegetables to create unique characters for her story. Complete the chart to reveal the origins of several characters.



CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.K.7; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.1.7; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.2.7

Animal/Animal Sound	+ Vegetable	= Name
Pug		
	Beet Root	
	Tomato	
Purr		
		Carrat
Cow		
		Colliflower
	Broccoli	
Unicorn		

Now try your hand at creating a unique character that could be a part of Pugtato's story! Choose an animal or animal sound and a fruit or vegetable to combine. What is the name of your new creation?

My new character's name is

Create an illustration of your new character.



Name: _____

Character Traits



Character traits describe a character's personality or qualities that make them who they are. How might you describe Pugtato to a friend? You could say "Pugtato is **kind**." Pick three other characters from the story. Create an illustration of each character and select a word that describes each one. Find evidence in the story to support the character trait you chose for each. [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.K.7](#); [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.1.7](#); [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.2.7](#); [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.K.3](#); [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.1.3](#); [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.2.3](#)

Name _____

Character trait _____

Text evidence _____

Name _____

Character trait _____

Text evidence _____

Name _____

Character trait _____

Text evidence _____
