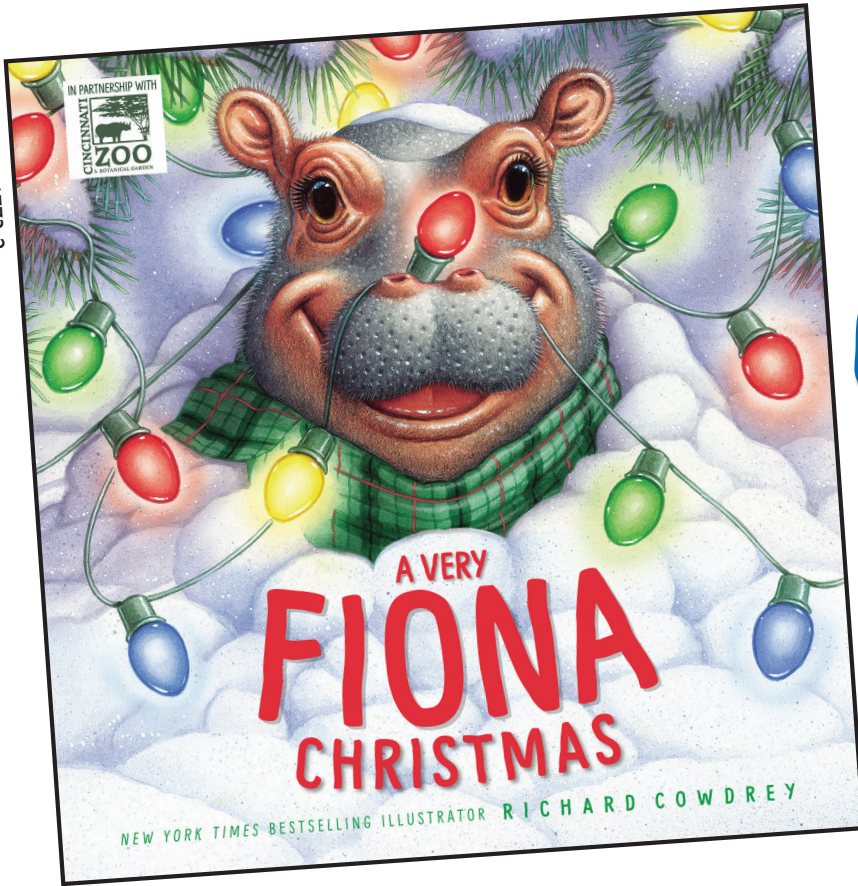


Curriculum Guide

978-0-310-76773-2



A VERY FIONA CHRISTMAS

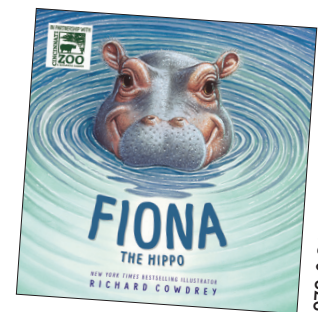
BY

Richard Cowdrey

It's Fiona's
first Christmas!

It's Christmastime, and the zoo is sparkling with holiday spirit! Amidst the snow, decorations, and mistletoe, will Fiona be able to find the true meaning of Christmas? Her animal friends try to help by showing Fiona all their favorite holiday traditions. But when Fiona gives Chloe, a cold little koala who's new to the zoo, a gift from her heart, she discovers that Christmas is really all about love.

Fiona the hippo was born six-weeks premature at the Cincinnati Zoo and quickly became an internet sensation with her spunky, can-do spirit. Young readers will adore this holiday sequel to the bestselling *Fiona the Hippo* picture book.

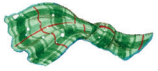


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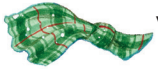
The Common Core State Standards addressed by the discussion questions, activities, and worksheets in this guide are noted throughout. For more information on the Common Core, visit corestandards.org.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

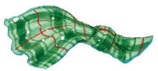


Describe the setting of the story. What clues can you find about where the story takes place in the story's illustrations and text?

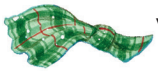
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.K.3; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.1.3; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.2.3



What do you think the author means when he describes the zoo as “buzzing with excitement”? CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.K.4; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.1.4; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.2.4

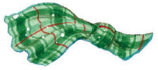


Fiona reacts to the “buzzing excitement” and decides to take a journey through the zoo. What question is Fiona trying to have answered as she visits the other zoo animals? CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.K.1; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.1.1; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.2.1



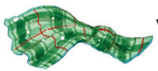
What are some of the feelings Fiona experiences as she travels through the zoo? Give examples from the story that support your description of how Fiona feels in different parts of the story.

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



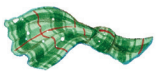
Is it easy for Fiona to find an answer to her question? Why or why not?

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



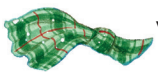
What advice does Fiona's mama give her when Fiona isn't sure she understands what Christmas means?

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



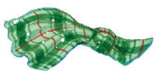
Describe the character of Chloe the koala. How does Chloe feel on Christmas morning when the other zoo animals are receiving presents?

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



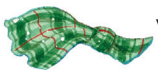
What does Fiona do when she sees how Chloe is feeling? How does Fiona's reaction to Chloe help her understand the meaning of Christmas?

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



How do the other zoo animals help Chloe feel welcome in her new home?

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



Why do you think that Fiona's mama is so proud of Fiona at the end of the story?

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

ACTIVITIES FOR STUDENTS

Happy Holidays!

Many people send out cards to family and friends to celebrate the winter holidays. What type of holiday card might Fiona and her zoo friends send? Design a card with characters from the book. Include a holiday greeting.

Snow Animal Math

Children who live in snowy places sometimes make snowmen as a fun outdoor activity. Fiona notices that there are snow animals on display when she and her penguin pals are sliding down a snowy hill. Using clay or playdough, create some snow animals of your own based on the animal characters in the book. Discuss with a partner what three-dimensional shapes (spheres, cylinders, etc.) you used to create your snow animals.

[CCSS.MATH.CONTENT.K.G.B.5](#); [CCSS.MATH.CONTENT.1.G.A.2](#)

My Other Favorite Holiday

Fiona goes on a journey through the zoo to discover what Christmas is and what it means to her animal friends. What is another holiday that you and your family enjoy celebrating? Why is this a favorite holiday? Write an opinion piece that gives your opinion about a favorite holiday and reasons why you enjoy celebrating this special event.

[CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.K.1](#); [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.1.1](#); [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.2.1](#)

Fiona's First Christmas: A Play

Write a short play about Fiona's journey through the zoo to discover the meaning of Christmas. Draw some of the story characters on 3 x 5 index cards and affix a craft stick to each card to create puppets. Be sure to create puppets of the main characters: Fiona, Chloe, and Mama. Use your script and craft-stick puppets to retell the story of Fiona's first Christmas.

[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: _____

SENSATIONAL FIONA!



It is a cold, wintry day when Fiona visits the other zoo animals to learn about Christmas. Fiona hears, feels, sees, smells, and even tastes many things on this winter day in the zoo. Look for descriptions in the illustrations and the text of how Fiona experiences the zoo through her five senses. Write your findings in the chart. [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.K.7](#); [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.1.7](#); [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.2.7](#)

Sense

Evidence of this sense in the illustrations or text

Sight	
Sound	
Touch	
Taste	
Smell	

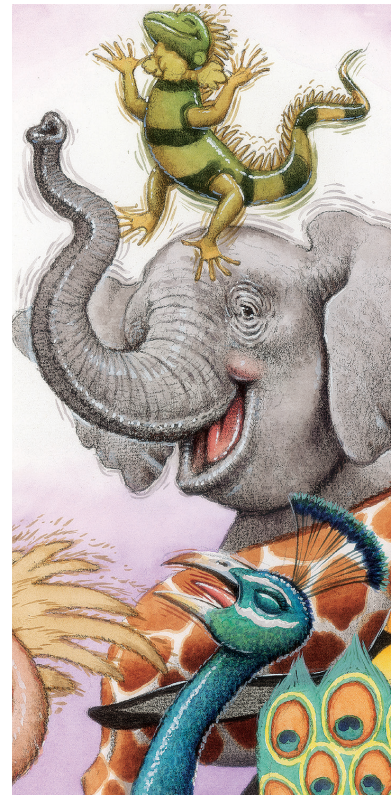
WHAT'S THAT SOUND? LOOKING FOR ONOMATOPOEIA

Onomatopoeia is when a word describes a sound and copies the sound of the object or action. Examples of onomatopoeia are MEOU, HOOT, BOOM, and BUZZ.

Go on a hunt for examples of onomatopoeia in *A Very Fiona Christmas*. List them below.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.K.4; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.1.4; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.2.4

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____



Write two sentences using onomatopoeia about the characters or action in the story.

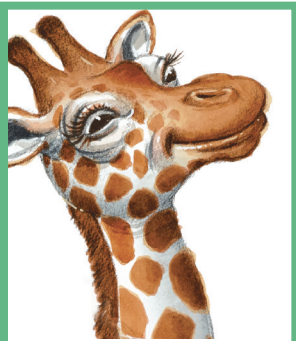
1. _____

2. _____

Name: _____

IN THE SPIRIT OF GIVING

The zoo animals are very excited about Christmas and all that this special holiday brings—decorated trees, twinkling lights, and presents! What would the perfect holiday gift be for each animal? List your gift ideas and your reasons for selecting the gifts for each animal. [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.K.1](#); [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.1.1](#); [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.2.1](#)



Gift idea

Reason for the gift

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