



A Teacher's Guide

created by **Marcie Colleen**
 based upon the picture book
 written by **Rosie J. Pova**
 illustrated by **Philip Martineau**

This classroom guide is designed for students in kindergarten through third grade. It is assumed that teachers will adapt each activity to fit the needs and abilities of their own students.

It offers activities to help teachers integrate *If I Weren't with You* across the curricula.

All activities were created in conjunction with the Common Core and other relevant content standards.

Guide content copyright © 2017 by Marcie Colleen. Available free of charge for educational use only. May not be published or sold without express written permission. www.thisismarciecolleen.com

If I Weren't With You text © 2017 by Rosie J. Pova, illustrations © 2017 by Philip Martineau

To learn more about Rosie J. Pova, visit her at www.rosiejpova.com

Before You Read

Before reading *If I Weren't with You*, help students identify the basic parts of a picture book: front cover, back cover, title page, dedication page, spine, jacket, and jacket flap.



The Front Cover ~

- Describe what you see. Who are the characters? What are the characters doing?
- Stand up with a partner and pretend to be the characters in this illustration. How do you think they feel? How does this pose make you feel?
- Can you predict what the story might be about based on the title and the cover illustration?
- How are these illustrations different from the front cover illustration?

Let's talk about the people who made *If I Weren't with You*.

- Who is the author?
- Who is the illustrator?
- What kind of work did each person do to make the book?

Take a close look at the illustrations throughout the book. Can you find:

- Nine butterflies
- Five red roses
- Two rabbits
- Two doves
- One fish
- One rainbow

Writing

Who is Willy? Who is Mama Bear ~ Character Study

How a character acts and what a character says can tell us a lot about who they are.

Read *If I Weren't with You* paying close attention to the characters. Scene by scene, record your thoughts, as in the chart below.

What Willy does	What Willy says	How would you describe Willy?
<i>Example: scurries after butterflies</i>	<i>"Look, Mama!"</i>	<i>Playful, curious, close to his mama</i>

After gathering information regarding Willy's character, do the same for Mama Bear.

Then, write a new scene for *If I Weren't With You*. What would Willy and/or Mama Bear do and say in one of the following situations?

- Willy playfully follows a bunny and gets lost.
- Mama tells Willy it's time for bed.

Show, Don't Tell

Good writing does not *tell* the reader how the character is feeling but *shows* the reader, through the character's dialogue and action. This allows the reader to conclude how the character is feeling or thinking on their own.

For example, telling would be:

- A) Peter was shy.
- B) Mary was excited.
- C) Simon cried.



Showing would be:

- A) Peter looked down at his feet.
- B) Mary jumped up and down, clapping.
- C) A tear rolled down Simon's cheek.

Rewrite the following *telling* examples, to be *showing* instead.

- 1) The bear was angry.
- 2) The bear was proud.
- 3) The bear was embarrassed.
- 4) The bear was sad.
- 5) The bear was happy.



Similes

Rosie J. Pova uses many delightful similes to express the love that Mama Bear has for Willy in *If I Weren't with You*.

A simile is a literary comparison that compares two objects, but uses "like" or "as" or "than."

"I would be sad like a cold morning rain."

"I would be mad like a thunderstorm in the meadow." Mama Bear stomped.

Guide students through writing similes about themselves.

- 1. How do you feel?

Example: I feel as lazy as a polar bear on a hot summer's day.

- _____
- _____
- _____

- 2. How do you look?

Example: My hair looks like porcupine's quills.

- _____
- _____
- _____



- 3. How do you act?

Example: I am wigglier than a rabbit, hopping quickly from here to there.

- _____
- _____
- _____

Pick one of your similes and explain its meaning. What are you comparing yourself to? Why did you choose to compare yourself to this thing?

Speaking & Listening

Picture books are written to be read aloud. Here are some other ways to bring *If I Weren't with You* to life in your classroom and have fun with speaking and listening skills!

Choral Reading

- Using the text of *If I Weren't with You*, take the role of the narrator while students chime in with Willy's and Mama Bear's lines.

Mime

- While the teacher reads the book aloud, the students can act out the events in the book. Emphasize body motion and facial expressions, as well as listening skills.

Drama

- Create a TV commercial to encourage people to read *If I Weren't with You*.
- Make and record a radio version of *If I Weren't with You*. Students decide what to use for the sound effects to create a mental picture of the story.

Math

Word Problems

For younger students, the use of pictures or props can be helpful in figuring out word problems. Note to teachers: Use the word problems below as inspiration to write your own, based on the illustrations in *If I Weren't with You* or any other book of study.

The "Look, Mama! Look!" Butterfly spread:

- 1) How many butterflies does Willy scurry after?

On a piece of paper, draw 9 butterflies.

Draw 1 more butterfly.

How many butterflies are there now?

Write the equation: $\underline{\quad} + \underline{\quad} = \underline{\quad}$

What if three butterflies flew away? How many butterflies would be left?

Write the equation: $\underline{\quad} - \underline{\quad} = \underline{\quad}$

- 2) How many purple flowers do you see?

On a piece of paper, draw 15 purple flowers.

Draw 5 more flowers.

How many purple flowers are there now?

Write the equation: $\underline{\quad} + \underline{\quad} = \underline{\quad}$

What if someone picked 6 of the flowers and took them away? How many flowers would be left?

Write the equation: $\underline{\quad} - \underline{\quad} = \underline{\quad}$



Social Studies

All About Me; All About My Family

The first community we ever belong to is family.

This multi-book project allows students the opportunity to get to know one another, and serves as an introduction to community.

Students will make books that contain pages with answered questions and pictures about themselves and other loved ones in their lives.

Yarn is used to bind the pages together.

Each student should have a special day that he reads his book to the class.

- Pages in each book include:

A portrait
I am called ____
My first and last name is ____
My address is ____
I live in ____ (the country, a city, etc.)
I live with ____
I am good at ____
My love for ____ is ____.



"You Fill My Heart with Sweetness"

Ask students to think of someone in their life that they like spending time with and makes them feel good. It can be a family member or a friend or someone they know of in the community. What are 5 things that they enjoy doing with this special person?

The Project:

- Have each student lay down on a large piece of paper while someone traces their body with a pencil.
- Once the student has the silhouette of their body, write the 5 things they chose inside the outline.
- Then decorate the silhouette to further depict the relationship between the student and their special person. Photos can be added to create a collage.
- Finished silhouettes can be displayed with the title "You Fill My Heart with Sweetness."



Science

How Animals Love Their Babies

The bears in *If I Weren't with You* are shown playing, eating, and snuggling. Although animals cannot say "I love you" like humans can, they show their love and care in other ways.

Using the table below, explore how some animals care for their babies.

Optional: Draw or illustrate the ways to say "I love you" within the boxes

DID YOU KNOW...?

Baby elephants are born blind, but rely on their mother and the rest of the herd to care for them. The rest of the herd is called "allmothers".	Who are some of the people who take care of human babies?
When baby alligators hatch, the mother alligator moves them all from the nest to the water in her mouth! That's where she continues to care for them for a year.	What are some ways human parents get their babies from here to there?
Mother cats give their babies a bath by licking them.	How do human parents bathe their babies?
A mother polar bear spends a few years teaching her babies how to hunt, while protecting them from predators.	What are some things that human parents teach their babies?
Daddy emperor penguins keep their egg between their feet for months to protect it from the cold. During that time they do not move, but stay very still in the Arctic chill.	How do human parents protect their babies from the cold?

Arts and Crafts

Mama and Willy Paper Plate Bears

Make your own Mama and Willy bears using paper plates, felt for ears, googly eyes, and markers and other paper to complete the look. Use a large dinner-sized paper plate for Mama and a small dessert-sized plate for Willy.



Coloring Page (please feel free to duplicate for the class)

