



# Mingo the Flamingo

## Grab-and-Go Study Guide to Create Smart Readers

This is a **Grab-and-Go** study guide for reading, Mingo the Flamingo. Use all or any parts of the ideas listed. Before I read it, I usually decide what I'm going to talk about and write reminders on post-it notes attached to the appropriate pages. Of course, go along with any ideas your children want to add to the discussion. Also, decide beforehand if you want to focus on any one particular reading element. I would suggest you not do this kind of reading with bedtime stories because you don't want to activate the mind but rather calm it. Just talk easily at bedtime.

When I read this to my students in the 2nd grade last year, I bought a headband from the dollar store with a big, pink, bouncy flamingo on top. Then I gave each child a flamingo-decorated pencil.

This is the first step in raising your smart-reading kids! Kids grow up fast – grab your moment! "Happy Reading!"

**Mingo the Flamingo** is going to fly south with his family for the winter. He doesn't get far when a storm knocks him off course and he lands in a strange place with strange animals. Read to find out how he gains the courage to finally fly again.

**So What?** This story matters because it allows youngsters to see that they can be resilient and solve problems - even if it's not on the first try.

**Reading Skills:** Story Structure, Problem and Solution, Cause and Effect, Making Predictions, onomatopoeia

**Words to Talk About:** If you come across a new word for your children while you are reading the story, say it like usual then just speak the meaning quickly and keep on reading.

- journey/voyage, muttered, pump, thump, propellers
- Compound Words: forever, everyone

- "ing" word families

**Before Reading:** Do a little talking and picture walking to get your mind ready for the reading. You will also activate background knowledge about the subject.

- What do you know about flamingoes and where they live?
- Point up, down and from side to side to model North, South, East, West.
- Why do birds fly south in winter? Do you know any people who go south in winter? Why do they go?
- Open the book and hold it flat so you can see front and back. What do you think is going on? Does this look out of place for a flamingo?
- Open the cover and look at the inside illustration of all the birds. Can you find Mingo hidden there? Why do you think the illustrator did it that way?

**During Reading:** Stop along the way to point things out or discuss a confusing or interesting part. These are just suggestions; you do not have to use them all. Pick and choose according to your child's age and attention span.

- Do flamingoes really carry suitcases? What do you think is inside?
- When Mingo is falling, predict what will happen next. Accept almost any idea within reason and tell your children to listen and see if they are right. If they are not correct, that is perfectly okay. What you want is for them to be engaged and thinking.
- Do you think Mingo knows anything about snow based on where he comes from?
- Why doesn't Mingo remember anything?
- Mimic the sounds that the barn animals are making.
- The animals make room for Mingo. When have you made room for more?
- How do the illustrations show us that Mingo is starting to feel at home on the farm? How would you feel if you lived in a barn?
- Towards the end of the story, how did seeing the geese help Mingo remember?
- What is the formation of geese called? (chevron)
- What does a personal trainer do? How is it the same or different from a physical therapist?
- Why did Mingo go to the top of the barn to fly?
- Can you "mutter" a few words?
- The animals had a plan to help Mingo fly - what plan can you think of to help him?
- Can animals really talk?
- Make a prediction if the flying machine will work.
- How does Mingo know where to go? (instinct is like a built-in GPS)
- What words can you think of that describe how Mingo and his parents are feeling at the end of the story?

### **After-Reading:**

- Fill in a story map with the characters, setting, problem and solution
- Draw pictures of the farm animals with word bubbles to show their sounds.
- Visit a zoo or farm
- Go to a gym or watch an exercise class on TV or CD.
- Draw a picture of Mingo trying to fly. Show how he is feeling.
- Find out about Migration.
- Find out who else made a flying machine (Wright Brothers)
- Make paper airplanes. Be sure to decorate them.
- What is a whirligig?
- Choose an animal or bird and write a story or play about a problem they solved.

**Connections:** Read *Stellaluna* to see how she is like Mingo in this story. Do you like the color pink? Read the *Pinkalicious* stories. Read *Flight School* and talk about how the two characters are the same and different.

I hope you and your children enjoyed flying with Mingo the Flamingo. Please visit me again at [www.booknooksbydesign.com](http://www.booknooksbydesign.com)

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

### Story Map for Mingo the Flamingo

Setting	Characters
Problem	Solution

