



## Amelia Bedelia Makes a Friend

By Herman Parish, pictures by Lynne Avril

GRL J

### ABOUT THE BOOK:

When Amelia Bedelia's next door neighbor and best friend, Jen, moves away, she is heartbroken. Amelia and Jen had always played together so well, doing all the things they loved to do: baking, dressing up, playing music, swinging, and bowling. After Jen moves, Amelia misses her every day. But one day a moving van shows up, and a new neighbor, Mrs. Adams, moves into Jen's house. Mrs. Adams has twin grandchildren and loves to do all the things Amelia and Jen did. Before too long, Amelia and Mrs. Adams become great friends, and when Jen comes back for a visit, the three of them have the best time ever.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Jen's and Amelia's mothers think the girls are as different as night and day. What characteristics do the girls possess that makes them so different?
2. Why does Amelia Bedelia think her new neighbors sound strange?
3. Why does Mrs. Adams think Amelia has sharp eyes? Why does Amelia know that Mrs. Adams has twin grandchildren before Mrs. Adams tells her?
4. What do the twins, Marty and Mary, tell Amelia about their grandmother? Why does Amelia agree with them?

*The above questions correlate to Common Core State Standards (Reading): RL.1.1, RL.2.1, and RL.3.1; (Speaking & Listening): SL.1.1, SL.2.1, and SL.3.1; SL.1.3, SL.2.3 and SL.3.3.*

### EXTENSION ACTIVITIES:

**Two Best Friends:** Amelia's parents think that Amelia plays together well with both Mrs. Adams and Jen but that they are all as different as night and day. How is the relationship between Jen and Amelia and the relationship between Mrs. Adams and Amelia both similar and different? Ask students to create a Venn diagram to help them compare the relationships. Have students draw a conclusion about the relationships and write it on their Venn diagram. Then ask students to share their thinking and diagrams with other students. *This activity correlates to Common Core State Standards (Reading Literature): RL.1.2, RL.2.2, and RL.3.2, RL.1.3, RL.2.3, and RL.3.3; (Language): L.1.1, L.2.1, and (Writing): W.1.1, W.2.1, and W.3.1.*

**Presenting, Amelia Bedelia!:** Ask pairs of students to write their own Amelia Bedelia stories. Students should select a setting, such as an amusement park or sporting event, and, to get their creativity flowing, have students make a list of words and idioms that could be associated with that setting. To build their story, students should identify other characters that will interact with Amelia and create a problem or conflict for their story that could be associated with the selected setting. After writing their story, students can choose one scene to illustrate. Ask student volunteers to read their story to the class. *This activity correlates to Common Core State Standards (Writing): W.1.3, W.2.3, and W.3.3, W.1.5, W.2.5, and W.3.5; (Language): L.1.1, L.2.1, and L.3.1; L.1.2, L.2.2, and L.3.2.*

**Draw It Like You Hear It!:** Amelia draws pictures of the items her mother discusses as she sees the movers take them out of the moving van, and as usual, Amelia draws exactly what her mother says. Her drawings reflect her interpretation of her mother's words. Create a list of terms for which the name could be misleading. Cut the list apart and have each student draw one term. Each student should illustrate the term using a touch of humor and then have students in the class try to guess the term. Post the illustrations in the classroom and attach the correct term to each. *This activity correlates to Common Core State Standards (Reading Literature): RL.1.7, RL.2.7, and RL.3.7; (Language): L.1.2, L.2.2, and L.3.2.*

**My Best Friend:** After reading and discussing the book, ask students to write about one of the following: (1) a day they spent with a best friend or family member, (2) a description of their best friend, or (3) how they met their friend and why they became friends. Students should use specific details and explain how their friendships make them feel. Ask for volunteers to share their writing with the class and compile the stories into a classroom friendship booklet. *This activity correlates to Common Core State Standards (Reading Literature): RL.1.3, RL.2.3, and RL.3.3; (Language): L.1.1, L.2.1, and L.1, and L.1.2, L.2.2,*

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