



SEL DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Stuart takes deep breaths and thinks happy thoughts when he is nervous. What are some things you can do when you are feeling nervous?

How do you think Stuart felt when Charlie stood up for him? What are some ways you can be a good friend?

Talk about a time when you misjudged someone or someone misjudged you. How do you think it made them feel? How did it make you feel? What did you do to work through it?

What are you most excited about this school year? What are you most nervous about?

WRITING PROMPTS

Write a diary entry from the point of view of a different character in the book.

Pretend you go to school with wild animals. Write a diary entry about your first day.

Make a list of three things you love about your school.

Make a list of three things you wish were different about your school.

If you could be best friends with a wild animal, which animal would you choose and why?

Which animal do you think would make the best teacher? Why do you think they would be the best?

ARTISTIC ACTIVITIES

Draw a map from your house to your school. Label all the special landmarks you see along the way.

Design a missing poster for Miss Fuzzybottom.

Pretend your best friend is a wild animal. Draw a picture of your friend and list all the characteristics that make them a good friend.

Make paper bag animal puppets and act out the story.

PHYSICAL ACTIVITIES

Design an animal relay race where participants hop, run, crawl, or slither their way to the finish line. Give everyone a different animal to imitate or have them compete as the same animal.

Practice deep breathing like these animals:

- **Bear:** Slowly breathe in for 3 seconds, and then exhale slowly for 3 seconds like a hibernating bear. Do this for 5 breaths.
- **Snake:** Take a deep breath in, and then exhale slowly through your mouth hissing like a snake.
- **Crocodile:** Lie on your stomach with your arms folded and your head resting on them. Breathe in and out at your own pace for 10 breaths.
- **Bumblebee:** Take a deep breath in through your nose, and then exhale through your nose while humming like a bee. If you plug your ears with your fingers, the buzzing will sound louder.
- **Butterfly:** Sit with your feet together in front of you and your hands resting on your shoulders. When you take a deep breath in, raise your elbows. When you exhale, slowly lower your elbows.

ANIMAL SORT

Working alone or with a friend, sort all the animals from *My School Stinks* into the following categories. Then, take a walk outside or make a trip to a pet store, a farm, or a zoo and sort those animals too! Animals may appear in more than one category. If you get stuck, you can find more information in a book, on the internet, or from an adult.

Carnivore
Omnivore
Herbivore

Mammal
Reptile
Mollusk

Predator
Prey

CONTENT CONNECTIONS FOR TEACHERS

Point of View

- Whose point of view is the story told from?
- Why do you think the author chose this point of view?
- How would the story change if it was told from Charlie's POV, the teacher's, or another character's?

Inferences

- How did Stuart feel about his new school?
- What evidence do you have that supports your ideas? Use the illustrations and text.

Character response

- How does Stuart respond to having to go back to school after his first day of school? Why do you think he acted that way?
- Stuart and his team ended up winning their second relay. What did Stuart do differently to change the outcome? If you had a sloth, a snail, and a turtle on your relay team, what would you do?

Character change

- How does Stuart change from the beginning of the book to the end? What happened to make him change?

