

Hamsters Make Terrible Roommates

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Synopsis: Henry is desperate for a little peace and quiet from his extremely chatty roommate Marvin, and after Henry finally loses his cool, these hamsters must find ways to compromise and live together.

Suggested Reading Date: World Communication Week – November 1st through 7th; World Hamster Day – April 12th

Activity Descriptions:

- Discuss what was the problem in the book? What was the solution?
- Have students reflect on whether they tend to like quiet or loud things to do and define introversion and extroversion.
- Create a tip list for how to get along better with others.
- Connect the story to classroom charters or agreements.
- Have students compare the front and back endpapers and share what they notice is different.
- Have kids practice communicating with a partner about whether they like it noisy or quiet while eating, reading or working, and playing. You could even do a class graph.
- Reread and discuss Marvin and Henry's apologies - how they are specific and helped them understand the problem and find a solution.
- Hamster art! Have kids draw hamsters. (See video links below.)

Related Websites:

- Author Website: <http://www.cherylklein.com/>
- Illustrator Website: <https://www.abhialwar.com/>
- Easy hamster drawing video: <https://youtu.be/0YrtugKbLpI>
- Slightly harder Hamster drawing video: https://youtu.be/Ct9-n8CHI_w

Text to Text Connections:

- *Louder, Lili* by Gennifer Choldenko
- *Memoirs of a Hamster* by Devin Scillian
- *Linus the Little Yellow Pencil* by Scott Magoon
- *Rosie Revere, Engineer* by Andrea Beaty
- *The Invisible Boy* by Trudy Ludwig
- *Interrupting Chicken* by David Ezra Stein

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