

My Friend Andy

Written and Illustrated By: Emma Chinnery

Synopsis: The big city is a scary place for Fluffy, the little lost dog--until she makes a friend who will help her in this carefully observed story that challenges readers to re-evaluate their perceptions of homelessness.

Suggested Reading Date: October 10 (World Homeless Day); December 21 (National Homeless Persons' Remembrance Day); August - 3rd Saturday (International Homeless Animals' Day); November – The week before Thanksgiving (Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week)

Activity Descriptions:

- Discuss how Andy and his dad helped Fluffy and how Fluffy's owners showed their appreciation.
- Discuss what Fluffy's owners did when Fluffy went missing.
- Tips for talking to kids about homelessness:
<https://www.humankindwichita.org/teaching-kids-about-homelessness/>
[https://blanchethouse.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/UnderstandingHomlessnessForKids- BlanchetHouse-1-1.pdf](https://blanchethouse.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/UnderstandingHomlessnessForKids-BlanchetHouse-1-1.pdf)
- Makerspace: Have students create cards or care packages to give to the homeless (or deliver to a homeless shelter).

Related Websites:

- Author's Website: <https://www.emmachinnery.com/>
- Coloring Page: <https://storage.googleapis.com/lr-assets/kids/kids-zone/activities/2024/1708520603-my-friend-andy-colouring-in-sheet.pdf>
- Stray Puppy Gets Rescued: https://youtu.be/V_t6rD6Pelo
- National Alliance to End Homelessness - Parents & Kids Talk about Homelessness: <https://youtu.be/CX4TzWdDAFY>

Text to Text Connections:

- *Can I Be Your Dog?* by Tory Cummings
- *Mutt Dog* by Stephen Michael King
- *Maddi's Fridge* by Lois Brandt
- *Alfie* by Thyra Heder

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