

The Panda Problem

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Illustrated By: Hannah Marks

Synopsis: A narrator's story is disrupted by the main character, Panda, who refuses to play the part.

Suggested Reading Date: National Panda Day - March 16; World Storytelling Day - March 20

Activity Descriptions:

- Discuss story elements – learn vocabulary of narrator, main character, setting, problem, solution. Helpful videos: <https://youtu.be/1M0pFLXegG0> <https://youtu.be/RGzKUdWkcAs>
- Have students write their own stories with wild story elements or write the continuation of this story (what is the bedtime story the pandas tell about the narrator?)
- Learn about Pandas and their habitat (bamboo grove). Answer the question: where do they live in the world?
- Look at the author and illustrator's bios on the inside of the book cover. Predict who wrote the words in green and why.
- Write words spelled out in jelly beans.
- Make boats out of paper, pretend you are sailing to Antarctica, and study its climate and that there are no bamboo trees in Antarctica.
- Read the book *Old Rock (is not boring)* by Deb Pilutti and discuss if the narrator would have preferred that main character instead of the panda.
- Make a Venn Diagram comparison of pandas and penguins including that they are both black and white, but live in different places and eat different foods.
- Draw and/or write about Panda in the bamboo grove, Antarctica, or on an alien planet.

Related Websites:

- Author's Website: <https://www.deborahunderwoodbooks.com/index.html>
- Illustrator's Website: <https://www.hannahmarks.uk/>
- Lesson ideas and Freebie: <https://amylemons.com/the-panda-problem-with-freebies/>
- Video of Author Interview: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OmpA1_5-SCM
- Book Trailer: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XzFQmUpIND8>
- National Geographic Kids – Giant Pandas: <https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/animals/mammals/facts/giant-panda>
- San Diego Zoo Panda Archival Cam Footage: <https://kids.sandiegozoo.org/videos/livecam/panda-cam>

Text to Text Connections:

Chester by Melanie Watt; *A Perfectly Messed Up Story* by Patrick McDonnell; *This is Not That Kind of Book* by Christopher Healy; *Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus!* by Mo Willems.

Created By: Alicia Rogers