

The Barnabus Project

Written and Illustrated By: The Fan Brothers

(Terry, Eric, and Devin)

Synopsis: In a world built for Perfect Pets, Barnabus is a “Failed Project,” half mouse, half elephant, kept out of sight.

Suggested Reading Date: Oct. 28th – Plush Animal Lover’s Day, Feb. 1st – Freedom Day

Activity Descriptions:

- Discuss different themes: perfection and failure, freedom, tolerance, acceptance.
- Look for ways in the text the creatures worked together to escape and discuss times in their own lives that students have needed to work together to succeed.
- Have students create a “Perfect Pet” or a “Failed Project.” There are excellent resources in the web links.
- Share opinions on whether it would be better to know a “Perfect Pet” or a “Failed Project” and why.
- Show the hidden treasures of the covers under the dust jacket and the front and back endpapers.
- Explore the process of the Fan Brothers- the interview below is an excellent resource.

Related Websites:

- The Fan Brothers reading *The Barnabus Project* - <https://youtu.be/ipk377rsxzc>
- The Fan Brothers website - <http://www.thefanbrothers.com>
- Interview with the Fan Brothers on creating the book together- lots of excellent artist notebook photos - <http://www.letstalkpicturebooks.com/2020/11/lets-talk-illustrators-162-the-fan-brothers.html>
- Drawing Video of character by Terry Fan - <https://youtu.be/js1R2ZRq8KU>
- Activity Guide from Tundra Books to create your own creature - https://tundrabooks.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/The-Barnabus-Project_activity-sheets.pdf
- For a longer multi-day unit – <https://www.tes.com/en-us/teaching-resource/the-barnabus-project-mindfulness-planning-12487800>
You need to make a free account: <https://www.tes.com/en-us/>

Text to Text Connections: *Sweetie* by Andrea Zuyll, *Nerdy Birdy* by Aaron Reynolds, *Quackers* by Liz Wong, *The Adventures of Beekle* by Dan Santat

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