



## Oliver

By Syd Hoff

GRL J

### ABOUT THE BOOK:

Oliver the elephant travels across the ocean to join the circus, only to discover that the circus doesn't need more elephants. The zoo doesn't need any more elephants either, and no one wants an elephant for a pet. Oliver doesn't know where to go or what to do. When he shows the children at the playground how he can dance, so many people stop to watch him that the man from the circus decides they might need one more elephant in the show after all.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Oliver can't work in the circus, so he has to find something else to do. List the other things Oliver tries and tell why each one doesn't work out. *Common Core State Standards (Reading: Literature): RL.K.1., RL.1.1., RL.2.1., RL.3.1.*
2. Oliver gets his wish at the end of the story: He gets to be a circus elephant. Why does the man from the circus decide to let Oliver join him after all? Do you think Oliver will be happy in the circus? Why or why not? *Common Core State Standards (Reading: Literature): RL.K.1., RL.1.1., RL.1.3., RL.2.1., RL.2.3., RL.3.1., RL.3.3.*
3. Elephants are real animals. Is Oliver a real elephant or a make-believe elephant? How do you know? Look for illustrations in the book that show something a real elephant would do. Then look for illustrations that show things only a make-believe elephant could do. *Common Core State Standards (Reading: Literature): RL.K.7., RL.1.5., RL.1.7., RL.2.7., RL.3.7.*
4. This book has lots of different animals and people in it. Look for words in the book that name animals. Then look for words that name people. *Common Core State Standards (Language): L.K.5.a., L.1.5.a., L.2.5.a., L.3.5.*

*Common Core State Standards (Speaking and Listening) that discussions might also address: SL.K.1.a.—b., SL.K.2., SL.K.6., SL.1.1.a.—c., SL.1.2., SL.1.6., SL.2.1.a.—c., SL.2.2., SL.2.6., SL.3.1.a.—d., SL.3.6.*

### EXTENSION ACTIVITIES:

**Pet Adventure Story:** Lots of different pets are included in this story. Which animal would you choose for a pet? Pretend to be that animal and see if others in your class can guess what kind of animal you are. Then draw a picture of you and the pet you would like to have. Write a story about an adventure the two of you have together. *Common Core State Standards (Speaking and Listening): SL.K.4., SL.K.5., SL.1.4., SL.1.5., SL.2.4, SL.3.3.; (Writing): W.K.3., W.1.3., W.2.3., W.3.2.a.—d.*

**Oliver the Circus Elephant Poster:** The circus man will want lots of people to come see Oliver the dancing elephant. Make a poster that the circus man could put up all around town to get people to come and see the new elephant in the show. Look at the illustrations and words in the book to help you create your poster. Then hang your poster in the classroom or hallway. *Common Core State Standards (Writing): W.K.1., W.1.1., W.2.1., W.3.1.a.*

**Oliver's Letter Home:** Imagine that you are Oliver. Draw a picture of yourself in the circus. Write or dictate a letter to your family or friends back home telling them all about your new life across the ocean. *Common Core State Standards (Writing): W.K.3., W.1.3., W.2.3., W.3.3.a.—d.*

**When You Grow Up:** The kids on the playground tell Oliver what they would like to be when they grow up. What would you like to be when you grow up? Draw a picture of yourself as a grownup doing the job you would like to have. Then write or dictate a paragraph that tells the name of your job and why you would like to have that job. *Common Core State Standards (Writing): W.K.1., W.1.1., W.2.1., W.3.1.a.—d.*

*Common Core State Standards (Writing) that writing activities might also address: W.K.5., W.K.6., W.1.5., W.1.6., W.2.5., W.2.6, W.3.4., W.3.5., W.3.6.*

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