



## Sammy the Seal

By Syd Hoff

GRL H

### ABOUT THE BOOK:

Sammy is an adventurous seal who wants to leave the zoo. He wants to know what it's like in the world outside. So he goes into the city, where he sees lots of people and places. He finds out what it's like to swim in a bathtub, and he learns to read and write at school. But Sammy realizes that he really belongs at the zoo, so he takes a taxi and gets back home just in time for dinner.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Sammy sees lots of things in the city, but when he gets hot he looks for some water so he can cool off. List three places where Sammy found water. Tell why he could or couldn't swim in each place. *Common Core State Standards (Reading: Literature):* RL.K.1., RL.1.1., RL.2.1., RL.3.1.
2. Sammy is a curious seal. What are some clues from the story that tell you that Sammy is curious? Are you curious like Sammy? Why do you think so? *Common Core State Standards (Reading: Literature):* RL.K.1., RL.1.1., RL.2.1., RL.3.1., RL.3.6.
3. Some of the illustrations in this story tell us things that the words do not tell. Look through the book and find examples of things you can learn about Sammy and his adventures only by looking at the illustrations. *Common Core State Standards (Reading: Literature):* RL.K.7., RL.1.7., RL.2.7., RL.3.7.
4. On the last page of the story, Sammy says, "There's no place like home." What does that mean? How do you know? Do you agree with Sammy? Why or why not? *Common Core State Standards (Reading: Literature):* RL.K.1., RL.1.1., RL.2.1., RL.3.1.

*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:

**Sight-seeing Sort:** What can you find only in a zoo? What can you find only in a city? What could you find in both places? Fold a sheet of paper into three sections. Label the left section The Zoo, the middle section Both Places, and the right section The City. Use what you learned from the story and what you know about zoos and cities to write words or draw pictures showing what you could find only in a zoo, only in a city, or in both places. *Common Core State Standards (Reading: Literature):* RL.K.3., RL.1.3., RL.1.7., RL.2.7.; *(Writing):* W.K.2., W.1.2., W.2.2., W.3.2.a—d.

**An Invitation to Sammy:** What could Sammy do if he came to visit you? Write a letter to Sammy inviting him to come visit you at your home or your school. Tell him about some of the things he could see and do with you there. *Common Core State Standards (Writing):* W.K.2., W.1.2., W.2.2., W.3.2.a—d.

**Sing a Song of Seals:** Sammy and the kids at the school all sing a song together. Using the tune from a song you already know, make up a song about Sammy the seal. Write or dictate the words to your new song, and then teach the song to your friends! *Common Core State Standards (Writing):* W.K.2., W.1.2., W.2.2., W.3.2.a—d.

**Sammy, Syd, and You:** The author and artist Syd Hoff wrote and illustrated many other books about animals, including *Danny and the Dinosaur* and *The Horse in Harry's Room*. Read some other books by Syd Hoff, and then choose your favorite. Draw a picture from that book, and write or dictate a paragraph explaining why you like that book the best. *Common Core State Standards (Reading: Literature):* RL.K.9., RL.1.9., RL.3.9.; *(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.*

Visit [www.icanread.com](http://www.icanread.com) for more teaching guides!

