

A Sick Day for Amos McGee

Recommended for Grades K-2

Book Summary: A Sick Day for Amos McGee

Every day Amos gets up and goes to the zoo where he spends time with his animal friends. Each animal has a favorite activity to do with Amos. One day Amos wakes up with a cold and decides he can't go to work. The animals wait and wait for him to show up, but Amos doesn't.

[SPOILER]

The animals hop on a bus and go to visit Amos who is happy to spend time with all of them. At the end of their day together, Amos declares that he feels much better.

Author Biography: Philip C. Stead

Philip Stead was born December 27, 1982. He attended the University of Michigan art school where he gained valuable education from an art instructor and his time spend browsing a collectible bookshop. His first book, *Creamed Tuna Fish & Peas on Toast*, was published in 2009. He went on to write his next book, *A Sick Day for Amos McGee*, with his wife illustrating. Their first book together won the Caldecott Medal and was published in several other languages. He and his wife Erin Stead live in Ann Arbor, Michigan.



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Discussion Questions: A Sick Day for Amos McGee

1. Amos gets up early every day, dresses in a pressed uniform and has a bowl of oatmeal. What is your morning routine? Why is it important to have a morning routine?
2. Amos has a job as a zookeeper. What kinds of duties do you think Amos does every day? Why might it be a difficult job?
3. Amos plays chess with the elephant, races with the tortoise, sits with the penguin, gives the rhino a tissue and reads to the owl. Did any of these activities of the animals surprise you? Why or why not? What kind of activities would you do with animals at the zoo if you were Amos?
4. When Amos doesn't show up for work, the animals wonder where he is until they decide to go find him. Why do you think the animals were concerned about him? What do your friends do when you're sick?
5. The animals leave the zoo and go to Amos' house. How did you think Amos felt when he saw his friends come to visit? How would you feel if all your friends came to visit?
6. Compare Amos' activities with each animal before he is sick and while he is sick. How does each activity change? Do you think Amos had a favorite activity? Why or why not?
7. After Amos spends time with each animal he announces that he feels better. Why do you think he feels better so quickly? How have the animals helped him?
8. The story ends with the animals having a sleepover with Amos. What do you think they will do the next day? Why is the penguin not sleeping?
9. What surprised you most about the story? If you were writing the story, how would you make it different?
10. Think about the colors used in the story. Why did the illustrator only use a handful of colors? Do the colors work for each animal? Why or why not?



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