

Duck at the Door

Recommended for Grades K-3

Book Summary: Duck at the Door

One night, a knock comes at the door and a family opens it to see a duck. Max missed the migration with his flock because he wanted to stay for winter until he found it too cold and lonely. The family decides to let him stay and Max quickly learns a number of important skills. However, the animals become tired of Max never sharing the TV remote and cooking unusual food so they look for a chance to have a talk with him and settle things. Before they do, April arrives and Max's flock has returned.

[Spoiler]

Max leaves to rejoin his flock and the animals gradually find themselves missing him because things are not as exciting without him around. In winter, to the astonishment of the family, Max returns and brings his entire flock to stay.

Author Biography: Jackie Urbanovic

Jackie Urbanovic grew up in a family of storytellers and comedians, which fostered her own love of stories. She graduated from the Maryland Institute of Art with her Bachelors of Fine Arts. She first worked as a graphic illustrator and designer for a number of other author's books until she began studying with author Jane Resh Thomas in 1997. In 2007, she published her first book, *Duck at the Door*, which led to other books in the Duck series.

She currently lives in Silver Spring, Maryland.



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Discussion Questions: Duck at the Door

1. What would you do if someone knocked on the door in the middle of the night?
2. Why was everyone surprised to see a duck at the door? Why do you think ducks are not typically seen in the winter? Is this a good or bad thing? Why?
3. Max tells his story about how he stayed behind to enjoy winter. Why do you think they were willing to help him? Would you have chosen to help Max? Why or why not?
4. What kinds of things do you think Max had to learn over the winter? Are there some things he had to learn that would be hard for a duck? If so, what?
5. What was one of the hardest things you learned how to do? Who taught you? How did you feel when you had mastered it?
6. Do you think there were some things the other animals had wished that Max had not learned? Why?
7. On Saturdays, Max watched his favorite TV shows while the other animals tried to grab the TV remote from him. Do you think Max learned how to share? Why or why not? Why is sharing an important thing to learn?
8. When Max leaves, everyone is relieved at first, but they come to miss him later. How had Max made their lives more exciting?
9. When he returns, Max not only decides to stay for winter again, but he brings his entire flock to stay. Do you think the other animals appreciated this? Was it a good idea for Max to bring along so many friends? Why or why not?
10. What do you think winter will be like for Irene and the animals with the whole flock of ducks? Do you think they will miss all the ducks when they leave? Why or why not?
11. Who do you think Max will bring for winter next year?



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