



Kids Book Club Kit | Darien Library

A Boy Called Bat by Elana K. Arnold

Recommended for grades 2 to 3

Summary: For Bixby Alexander Tam (nicknamed Bat), life tends to be full of surprises—some of them good, some of them not so good. Today, though, is a good surprise day. Bat’s mom, a veterinarian, has brought home a stray baby skunk, which she needs to take care of until she can hand him over to a wild animal shelter. But the minute Bat meets the kit, baby skunk, he knows they belong together. And he’s got one month to show his mom that a baby skunk just might make a pretty terrific pet.



Discussion Questions:

1. Bat’s room is his favorite place in the world, because he feels completely comfortable. Where is your favorite place? Describe it. Why is it your favorite place?
2. When Bat is overwhelmed, he starts to flap his arms. What is something you do when you feel overwhelmed or stressed?
3. What does Bat want to be when he grows up? Why? What do you want to be when you grow up? Why?
4. Why do Bat and Israel have trouble getting along? How do they become friends?
5. Bat falls in love with the baby skunk his mom brings home. What’s one animal you wish your mom or dad would bring home for you to take care of?

Further Resources:

Pets 101: Skunks: <https://dar.to/2CWA2XY>

Activities

1. People sometimes use expressions that they do not mean to be taken literally. These are called “figures of speech,” such as “I’m all ears” or “sweet tooth.” Bat has trouble understanding the meaning of these because he takes most things people say literally. Create a list of figures of speech. Pick one and draw it. Then see if a friend can guess what it is.
2. Many animals get rescued and need help. With a grown-up’s help, gather your friends and come up with a way to donate your time or funds to a local animal shelter.