



Elmore

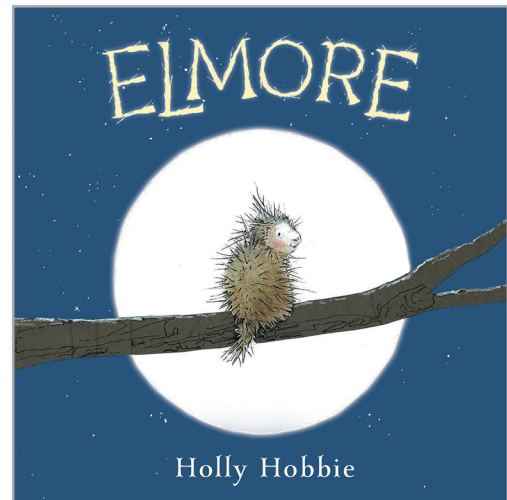
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Read-Aloud Activity by Pat Dragan

Before We Read: Introduce the Book

- Suggested scripted text for readers is indicated in italics with the lesson. Feel free to adapt as you wish.
- The **Now We Read** and **After We Read** sections include suggested instructions in brackets for readers.

- *Elmore is a porcupine. What do you know about porcupines?*
- *Elmore has a problem making friends. Can you guess why?*
[Give children a chance to share their ideas.]
- *As you listen to the story, think about Elmore's problem making friends. He really tries to have friends.*
- *What things go wrong? What does Elmore hope for?*
- *The story takes place in the forest. The place where the story happens is called the setting.*



Now We Read: Read the Story

- *The pictures in this story are going to give some good clues about why a porcupine could have trouble making friends. So look closely at the pictures as I read the story to you.*

After We Read: Talk about the Book

Ask children for their thoughts after finishing the story. Here are some prompts for discussion.

- *How did Elmore try to make friends? Why didn't the animals want to be friends with Elmore?*
- *Elmore had a good idea. He was a good inventor. What was his big idea, and his big invention?*
- *How did the animals show Elmore they liked being friends with him?*
- *Did Elmore's hopes and dreams come true?*

Optional Activities:

- This might be a fun book to role-play. Invite children to take the parts of Elmore and a few animals who don't want to be friends. Let the animals show why it could be hard to be a porcupine's friend. Children will have lots of ideas!

(Hint: Ask a child portraying a porcupine to stand nearby another child. The other child says "Ow!" and brushes off imaginary "quills." The pictures in the book suggest several good ideas for role-play.)

- Questions that might help children decide to ways they could role-play an animal:
 - *Who wants to be part of the group of animals behind a tree talking about Elmore?*
 - *Who wants to be Elmore's uncle, telling him to "treasure his quills?"*
 - *Who wants to be Elmore, making quill pens and giving them away?*
 - *Who wants to be the animals thanking Elmore for his gifts of quill pens?*
- Put all the parts together to make a play, or child-invented role-play, if children seem interested.
- Try quill writing. Gather some blunt old pencils (not sharp!), small dabs of paint on a folded paper towel, and construction paper for each child. Children can dip pencils in paint and pretend to "write with a quill pen." Small twigs will work also. You may need to caution children that these tools are only for "writing on paper."