



## ***Mac's Big Wish***

by

Oregon Author **Peter Vanderwall** and Oregon Illustrator **Janis Lillian**

Nominated by the **Oregon State Literacy Association** for the  
**Patricia Gallagher Children's Choice Picture Book Award**

### **Grade 9 -10 Extension Activity**

Reference to **Oregon English Language Arts and Literacy Standards, Grade 9-10.**

#### **Classroom Organization:**

- (1) Each student reads *Mac's Big Wish* and reflects on the illustrations.
- (2) In small groups, each student identifies pages that they feel introduce Mac, show Mac's adoption by Virginia of Oak Knoll Care Center, or show Mac being a friend.
- (3) Take turns discussing the emotion that a student felt while reading *Mac's Big Wish* (3 minutes per person). Respect each individual's emotion. No judgment.
- (4) The group discusses, first, Prompt 1 (5 minutes) and, second, Prompt 2 (5 minutes).
- (5) Individually, each student addresses Prompt 1 and/or Prompt 2 (up to 30 minutes).

#### **Standards Addressed:**

9-10.RL.2 Determine a theme or central idea of a text and analyze in detail its development over the course of the text, including how it emerges and is shaped and refined by specific details. Provide an evidence-based summary of the text.

9-10.W.3 Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, well-chosen details, and well-structured event sequences.

#### **Background:**

**Central Idea** - The central idea is the main focus of the story. It is the essential ideas that help you understand each section and the overall story as a whole.

**Narrative** - Narrative writing is a style that allows the writer to tell a story. Narrative writing can keep the reader's attention and help the reader visualize a realistic experience from the words. Narratives include picture story books, essays, fairy tales, autobiographies and news stories.

**Imagine** - To imagine is to form a mental picture of something that is not present.

#### **Writing Prompts:**

*Mac's Big Wish* is a picture story book. The professional magazine, *Kirkus Review* on October 15, 2022, wrote: The author builds the story well with simply structured sentences, repeated phrases, and fun sound words (squish-squash-squish, click-clack, squeak-squeak-squeaking). The illustrator's painterly cartoon style allows for humanlike expressions on otherwise realistically portrayed animals' faces.

Now it is your turn to write about *Mac's Big Wish*. Use your reading and writing skills to address these prompts:

- (1) What is the central idea of *Mac's Big Wish*? How does the main character, Mac, develop over the course of *Mac's Big Wish*? Include descriptions of how Mac is introduced, how Mac develops, and how Mac is connected to the central idea? (Up to 3 paragraphs).
- (2) Write a narrative to develop what you imagine is Mac's next experience. Use effective writing technique, well-chosen details and well-structured events. (Up to two paragraphs).

