



RedRover Readers Program and Forest School Partnership

GRADE(S): PRE-K-3 **SEL ALIGNMENT:** Self-awareness; Social Awareness; Responsible decision-making; Positive relationships

TEACHING GUIDE

FRIDA KAHLO AND HER ANIMALITOS Written by Monica Brown | Illustrated by John Parra

TIME: 35 minutes (reading and discussion - 15; activity - 10)

MATERIALS: Frida Kahlo and Her Animalitos book

KEY CONCEPTS:

- Animals can be comforting friends.
- Similarities between humans and non-human animals.
- Limb difference and ability.
- Imagination.

Land acknowledgment: You may want to do a land acknowledgment before this reading and lesson to determine what land you are on. [Native-land.ca](https://native-land.ca) is an app to help map Indigenous territories, treaties, and languages.

BEFORE READING: As a group, discuss the following topics.

- Ask: How many have painted a picture before? Tell the children that we are going to read a story about a famous painter named Frida Kahlo and her animals. Ask: What do you think Frida is going to paint in this story?
- What does it mean to overcome a challenge? (success dealing with a problem)
- What is a limb difference? (when an arm, leg, or wing, is not shaped in the typical way)
- Do you think people and animals can be friends? Why or why not? What would a friendship between a person and an animal look like?

DURING READING:

- Show children the picture on the page that says "...like her parrot, Frida was colorful." Talk about the bold, bright colors and the tie to indigenous Mexican culture. Ask: Why did Frida like to wear bold colors? (The bold shades of color celebrated indigenous Mexican culture and her heritage.)
- On the page with Frida's father, ask: What did Frida's father teach her? What do you notice in this picture? (Answers will vary but include observing nature and animals, ants, microscope, camera, etc.)
- Frida got sick when she was a young child. What did she do while she was in bed? (She used her big imagination and she painted.)
- On the page that says, "...other children made fun of her, but this didn't stop Frida." Ask: What is Frida doing in this picture? (Riding a bike.) Tell the children, that even though her leg was different she was still able. Do you remember another book we've read where the goose had a limb difference? A hurt foot? What was the goose still capable of doing?



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DURING READING CONTINUED:

- On the page with the pyramid and all of the animals, ask: How do Frida and her husband look like they feel in this picture? How do the animals look like they feel? Why do you think they feel that way?
- On the page that says her paintings were magic, ask: What did Frida paint? Why do you think she painted herself with her animals so much?

AFTER READING:

- Why was Frida never alone?
- Frida and her friends were curious. They wanted to know about their world. What is something you are curious about?
- Think back to the similarities between Frida and her animalitos. Like her eagle, Frida's imagination could fly high. Like her cat, Frida had shiny black hair. Turkeys were intelligent and sensitive just like her, and her dogs were warm and loving just like Frida. Like her fawn, Frida had watchful, beautiful eyes. How are you similar to an animal? What traits do you share in common with an animal?
- Frida was sick at the age of 6 and had a bad accident when she was 18. She didn't let this stop her. She overcame these challenges and added beauty through paintings to the world. Have you ever had to overcome a challenge?
- Frida painted when she was happy and she painted when she was sad. What do you do when you are sad? What do you do when you are happy?

EXTENSION ACTIVITIES:

- Painting. Frida Kahlo is a world-famous painter. Look up her painting and invite the children to paint anything from nature or the story. Provide bright colors like those found in the story.
- Write or draw how you are similar to an animal or another part of nature. Invite children to share their drawings and the ways they are similar to whatever they choose.
- Imagine a conversation between Frida and one of her animals. Frida had a lively imagination. Imagine what she would say to one of her animals and if the animal could talk, what would they say in response?



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AT THE END OF THE LESSON: Ask students to reflect on these questions.

- How did you feel about today's book and discussion?
- What did you learn that you didn't already know?

DON'T FORGET TO REPORT YOUR READING:

RedRover.org/reportreadings