

# Talking About Stories

## I Wanna Iguana

by Karen Kaufman Orloff; illustrations by David Catrow

Alex really, really wants an iguana for a pet. He writes notes to his mom, telling her all the things he will do to take care of the iguana. The notes Alex and his mother write to each other and the pictures that tell the rest of the story are a lot of fun for adults as well as children.

Here are some activities you can do with your child as you read the book together. Don't try to do everything the first time you read the book. There are many parts of *I Wanna Iguana* that your child will probably enjoy, so you'll have other opportunities to read the story together. Reading the same book with your child gives him lots of practice with important reading skills, including learning new words and seeing how books and print work.

So, let's get started!

Before you begin, ask your child what he knows about iguanas. What are they? How big are they? Where do they live? Read the title out loud: *I Wanna Iguana*. What words rhyme or sound the same? Ask your child to guess what the book is about, based on the title and the picture on the cover.

As you read the book, look for surprises. Ask your child to guess what will happen next. Talk about how close your child's guesses were to what actually happens in the story.

There are some interesting words and phrases throughout this book, like *iguana*, *reptile*, *compassionate*, *allowance*, *trial basis* and *financial wizard*. Talk about these and any other new words you come across as you read. Do the pictures in the book give your child clues about what some of these words mean?

After reading this story, write a note to your child and help him write a note to you by writing down what he says. Post notes for your child in your home so he can discover them throughout the week. Help him read the notes once he finds them. Ask your child to go through the book and find the funniest page. Why does he think that page is the funniest?

If your child likes *I Wanna Iguana*, here are some other books to look for in the library or bookstore: *If Mom Had Three Arms*, also by Karen Kaufman Orloff, and *My School's a Zoo!* by Stu Smith and David Catrow.



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