

Billy and the Beast
By Nadia Shireen

Read aloud the text on the back cover, pausing to ask:

- What is a “trusty sidekick”?
- Why do you suppose the “adorable little animals” might be getting worried?
- What do you think is going to happen in this story?

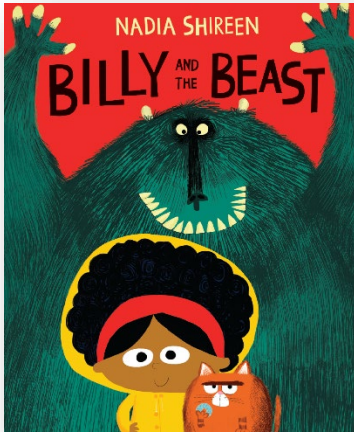
Read aloud the story, pausing to ask:

- *After reading the page where Billy and Fatcat are taking a walk in the forest:* Who is hiding among the trees? Why?
- *After reading the page where Billy greets the animals:* What do you think is causing a “TERRIBLE RUMBLE”?
- *After reading the page where the animals have disappeared:* What do you think has happened to the animals? What is about to happen to Billy?
- *After reading the page where Billy and Fatcat are in the Beast’s bag:* How do you think Billy is feeling now? How would you feel? What would you say to the Beast?

After reading the story, ask:

- Which of the following do you think could describe Billy: Timid, Brave, Clever, Resourceful, Fearful, Worried, Caring, Practical, Silly, Well-prepared, Boring, Mean, Kind, Scary? Why did you pick the words you chose? Can you think of other words to use?
- Which words would you choose to describe the Beast?
- If you could store things in your hair like Billy, what would you choose to put there?
- Is Billy a good friend? What makes someone a good friend?
- How does Billy trick the Beast?
- What do you think happens to the Beast after he bounces down the hills in the soup pot? How does he feel? Write and illustrate a story about that.





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1. Once the child is familiar with the story, invite them to make sound effects or fill in dialogue as you read it aloud again.
2. Have the child identify their favorite character in the story and explain their choice. Encourage them to tell or write the story as if this character is telling what happened.
3. Ask which page is their favorite and ask them to explain why they chose it.
4. Have the child pick an animal from the story and help them find several facts about it in a nonfiction book or on a nature website. Have them draw a picture of their animal.
5. Have a group of children act out the story.
6. Make a "terrible soup" together using broth and chopped vegetables. Ask the children to imagine what other things the vegetables could be.
7. Go for an imaginary forest walk of your own. What do you see? Hear? Smell? What is your favorite thing about your walk? Or go for a real walk in the woods or in a park and talk about these same things.
8. Share the word for the sound of a growling tummy: borborygmus. Practice saying it several times. (It's a fun word to say!)

If you like this book, don't miss

Billy and the Dragon by Nadia Shireen

Billy and the Pirates by Nadia Shireen

You might also like:

A Tale of Two Beasts by Fiona Robertson

Superhero Baby by Patricia Hegarty and Alex Willmore

Beast Feast by Emma Yarlett

