

# Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus

by Mo Willems

Caldecott Honor Book (2004). From eager to deflated to a full-blown temper tantrum all because the pigeon wants to drive the bus and you, the reader, won't let him. A hilarious picture book that your children will be able to relate to and appreciate.



## Read

### Before:

Introduce the book and tell the children a little bit about it. Follow that with a comment or question that is related to the story such as, *Have you ever wanted to do something only to be told that you couldn't?* Encourage a discussion so the children can comment, ask questions, and express their feelings. Set the stage for listening by asking an "I wonder" statement based on the cover illustration.

- I wonder why the pigeon wants to drive the bus?

### During:

Encourage the children to comment on the illustrations, ask questions, and predict what will happen next in the story. Children gain confidence and a sense of achievement through being able to correctly predict how a story will end. Point out "rare words" (e.g., those words that are not commonly used in every day conversation) and help the children relate the meaning in a way that makes sense to them.

### Rare Words in *Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus!*

- pigeon: a medium-sized bird that lives in cities
- steer: to guide

### After:

Discuss the story. Ask questions...

- Do you think that the pigeon's cousin Herb drives a bus?
- What all did the pigeon say to try and talk us into letting him drive the bus?
- Would your mom really let the pigeon drive the bus?
- The pigeon finally threw a temper tantrum and yelled "Let me drive the bus!!!" How can you tell from the illustration that he is having a temper tantrum?
- What do you do when your parents tell you no?
- Instead of having a temper tantrum when you get mad, what else could you do?
- Do you think the truck driver will let the pigeon drive the big truck?

## Do

### Act It Out

Visit Mo Willems's site at [www.pigeonpresents.com](http://www.pigeonpresents.com) for activities and information related to all of his titles. Under Grown Up Stuff, you will find an activity called Act It Out in The Pigeon Teacher's Guide where you have your class stand up and act out the Pigeon's role, emulating his dialogue and his body language as he goes through the range of emotions which finally erupt into a full-blown temper tantrum. You can then ask your children if they have ever had a tantrum and talk about what it felt like.

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