



## Happy Pig Day!

*Mo Willems*

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Gerald is careful. Piggie is not.  
Piggie cannot help smiling. Gerald can.  
Gerald worries so that Piggie does not have to.

Gerald and Piggie are best friends.

In *Happy Pig Day!* Piggie celebrates her favorite day of the year! But will Gerald the Elephant be included in the festivities?

Using vocabulary that is perfect for beginning readers (and vetted by an early-learning specialist), Mo Willems has crafted a heartfelt story about celebrating the special occasions in life. Fans of the Geisel Award-winning duo will want to join the party!

## Happy Pig Day! Details

Date : Published October 4th 2011 by Hyperion Books for Children

ISBN : 9781423143420

Author : Mo Willems

Format : Hardcover 64 pages

Genre : Childrens, Picture Books



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## **From Reader Review Happy Pig Day! for online ebook**

### **Pooja says**

Oinky! Oink! Oink!

That's how you say Happy Pig Day in Pig!  
Never too late to read these children's book, I guess.

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### **Dolly says**

Yay! Another Elephant and Piggie story! We read them as soon as we can get them at our local library. We just love these books and our girls love to play the different parts.

This story is about a day for celebrating your identity (in this case, Piggie's pigness), but it also shows how we can all celebrate these days, even if we aren't a member of that particular group. It's a good introduction to different cultural and ethnic observances and encourages us all to participate and enjoy the day.

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### **midnightfaerie says**

I'm not a huge pig fan, however, we love Mo Willems and my best friend IS a pig fan, so I can't wait to buy her this book! Willems once again enchants with this adorable book about celebrating all that is you, in your own unique way. With a little surprise at the end, this made for much fun and enjoyment in our household. Willems is still one of the few authors to completely and totally captivate both my 5 yr old and twin 3 yr olds at the same time, for the ENTIRE book. Highly recommended!

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### **Melissa says**

Not my favorite in the series, but MAN I wish Mo Willems would teach a class in how-to-end-books to every aspiring picture book author IN THE WORLD.

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### **Heather says**

Hurrah for another 5-star Elephant & Piggie book. I love the idea of Happy Pig Day which is a day to sing pig songs, dance pig dances, play pig games, eat pig food and shout "Oinky, Oink, Oink!" with glee. I love Piggie's exuberance over her favorite holiday, and I cannot help but identify with Gerald's existential angst over having a trunk, being gray, and feeling left out of the celebration. Fortunately, because this is a Elephant & Piggie book, there will be a silly but appropriate resolution.

I cannot wait to read this to our local 1st graders next week!

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## Taija says

These books! ❤️?❤️?❤️?

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## Kristen Dutkiewicz says

Gerald is sad because he thinks you have to be a pig to celebrate pig day, but of course there's a fun twist!

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## Mike Spinak says

This book isn't awful, but I'm not especially fond of it. It epitomizes something I dislike in a lot of children's books (and children's music, children's television, etc.).

My friend's 5 year old son loves Pink Floyd's album Dark Side of the Moon. He loves Dave Brubeck's Take Five, too. He listens to them over and over and over again. He doesn't need music to be "Old MacDonald had a farm, E-I-E-I-O," or "There was a farmer who had a dog and Bingo was his name-o." Likewise, his favorite book is The Periodic Table, by Adrian Dingle. In other words, he's capable of appreciating books and music with some substance, even if he is a pre-schooler. My other closest friend's kids are the same way. As was I. Almost all children are.

Happy Pig Day! is the children's literature equivalent of "Old MacDonald" or "Bingo". The pictures, words, story, and all aspects of the book have been stripped of as much substance as possible. We're left with something unnecessarily oversimplified to the point of being threadbare and near-lifeless, even for a preschooler.

The dictionary definitions of "insipid" include:: without distinctive, interesting, or stimulating qualities; without sufficient taste to be pleasing; lacking vigor; flat, dull, uninteresting, tasteless, bland.

By those definitions, I'd have to say Happy Pig Day is a little bit insipid. Books, music and other culture made for little kids don't need to be like this. Even for small children, there are so many richer, more artful options, such as Shel Silverstein's The Giving Tree, Antoine de Saint Exupéry's The Little Prince, Maurice Sendak's Where the Wild Things Are, Richard Scarry's What People Do All Day, Edward Gorey's The Doubtful Guest, Crockett Johnson's Harold and the Purple Crayon, Ian Falconer's Olivia, Mercer Mayer's A Special Trick, Jon J. Muth's Zen Shorts, or for even younger children, Spring is Here by Taro Gomi, or First Book of Sushi by Amy Wilson Sanger.

At any age, there's never any need for the culture we expose to our kids to be like this. Dumbing things down in this kind of way is not doing kids any favors.

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### **Jenny says**

This might just be my favorite in the series. It is Pig day and Piggie is celebrating with other pigs. Elephant wants to wish her a Happy Pig Day but he isn't sure how and he feels left out. Of course there is a twist at the end. There are such realistic, raw emotions in this book and it is so relatable...from Piggie's joy in celebrating Pig Day to elephant's feelings of being lonely and excluded. Mo Willems is a genius.

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### **Matt says**

Another *Elephant and Piggie* book that keeps the reader interested until the final page. It's Pig Day in town and Piggie is happy to share it with anyone who will listen. She brings her friends around and tries to get Gerald to join in the festivities. However, with a trunk and floppy ears, he does not feel that he can fit in as Pig Day seems to be all about the corkscrew tail. Piggie has a surprise for him before celebrating even louder. Neo has loved each book in this series and I am pleased to be able to keep finding new and exciting books in this series for him to enjoy. Surely we will exhaust the books sooner than later, but there's always fun when a new one crosses our path.

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### **Lolita The Librarian says**

I love the Elephant & Piggie series. My 4 year old son thinks they are great and loves them too. These books were the first beginning readers that he picked up to "read" on his own. I credit them for helping take him from "reading" to reading for real. Love, Love, Love!

When trying to develop a child to be an engaging reader, I think the books in the Elephant & Piggie series are perfect. The expression and emotion of the characters encourages children to read with that same animation. When reading an Elephant & Piggie book, my son follows right along - from the shouts and yells of anguish or excitement to the whispers of despair and everything in between. These books help to develop life-long readers who will be great at reading out loud and storytelling.

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### **Azura says**

Hi, I am Azura. I like this because they say, "happy pig day," and I feel a little sad because Gerald doesn't understand what 'Happy Pig Day' is for. Bye!

Azura spoke

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### **Li says**

You don't have to be a pig to celebrate Pig Day!

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## Kara says

Opening:

"Have you ever had a birthday party and couldn't invite everyone you wanted to? In this story we're about to read, Piggie wants to celebrate Pig Day. He's very excited and has invited some friends over to celebrate too, but there's one problem. Let's look at this page (Elephant, Piggie, & 3 pig friends). What do you notice about all of Piggie's friends?"

\*student responses\*

"How do you think that's going to make Elephant feel?"

\*student responses\*

"While we read, think about Piggie and Elephant's feelings."

Identification of Opening Moves:

This opening activates background knowledge by connecting it to a birthday party. Then, a brief summary of the plot leading up to the problem is given. The teacher also asks students to notice who is at the party by looking at the illustration. Next, students are asked to infer how Elephant would feel. Finally, the teacher asks the students to notice how the characters feel throughout the story, telling them what to pay attention to.

Selection Rationale:

I chose this book because second graders sometimes leave each other out intentionally, but also unintentionally. It will help me discuss how to be discreet so we don't hurt others' feelings. It also opens up the conversation so we can talk about how to be aware of other people's feelings.

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## Adrienne Pettinelli says

Piggie: "Today is the *best* day of the year!"

Gerald: "Today is free ice cream day?"

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