

SEÑOR SAGUARO: KING OF THE DESERT



ABOUT THE BOOK:

Age Range: 4-7 years

Grade Level: Grades K-2

Publisher: The Little Fig

ISBN-10: 1633330591

ISBN-13: 978-1633330597

It takes more than attitude to be KING!

Señor Saguaro has lived many years in the sol caliente with agua poco. He knows just what it takes to grow and thrive in the Sonoran Desert...or does he?

After befriending a bat, a woodpecker family, and a fruit-loving pack rat, Señor Saguaro sees his royal role in his ecosystem in a whole new way.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR - LISA ROSE:

Lisa Rose - award-winning author, speaker, and STEM advocate - has written a number of remarkable fiction and nonfiction picture books exploring themes of scientific discovery, learning about the Dead Sea, celebrating friendships, and developing differently-abled, tenacious characters. Her school visit presentations focus on STEM activities, creative writing, and self-expression. Lisa uses her experiences as an author and mother of a visually-impaired child to help build empathy, understanding, and character skills. Learn more about Lisa and her many projects at lisarosewrites.com.



ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR - EMMA GRAHAM:

Emma Graham is a versatile and experienced illustrator and graphic artist based in Suffolk UK. Since graduating from Norfolk Institute of Art, she has built up a vibrant portfolio designing and illustrating everything from book covers, to seed packets, greetings cards, album covers, school magazines, private commissions and wild in art sculptures. Access egramhamillustrations.co.uk to view samples of Emma's remarkable illustrations.



PRE-READING DISCUSSION:

- Describe the illustration on the cover of the book. Identify familiar images.
- Tell all that you know about the desert.
- The title of the book is SEÑOR SAGUARO: KING OF THE DESERT. King's typically wear royal crowns. What type of crown is the cactus wearing? Does the crown make the cactus seem royal and powerful? Explain your answer.
- How is the cactus feeling in the illustration? How do you know?
- Predict what this book is going to be about.

POST-READING DISCUSSION:

I am King of the Desert! Not even a hundred years in the *sol caliente* with *agua poco* could prevent me from becoming GRANDE!"

"Friend?!" Señor snorted. "How can your moonlit dining make you *mi amigo*?"

"Qué pasa?" asked Señor. "Who's making that racket?"

"It's me. Just building a little home for me and the missus."

"I heard you the first time. Tell me how eating *mi fruta* makes you *mi amigo*?"

"Sip, tap, and munch away! Muchas gracias, *mi amigos*!"

- The Saguaro is a giant cactus that can grow up to 66 feet high. Saguaro can be found growing in desert-like regions in Mexico and the southwestern United States. Reread the phrase to the left. Identify the facts featured in the selection from the book.
- Tell all that you know about kings. Explain how a giant plant might be considered to be a king.
- The translations for the Spanish words used in the phrase are *sol*, meaning *sun*; *caliente*, meaning *hot*; *agua*, meaning *water*; *poco*, meaning *little*; and *grande*, meaning *big*. Make a connection between these Spanish words and the setting. How do the Spanish terms add meaning to the story?
- The translations for the Spanish words used in the phrase are *mi*, meaning *my*, and *amigo*, meaning *friend*. Explain why Señor Saguaro seems surprised that Bat thinks that the two are friends.
- Define the word *friend*. Tell all that you know about being a friend.
- Bat is pollinating Señor Saguaro flowers in a special way known as *chiropterophily*, a process that happens at night. This process not only feeds the Bat and pollinates the flowers, *chiropterophily* helps to keep the cactus healthy and strong. List ways that the Bat helps Señor Saguaro. Explain how Señor Saguaro helps Bat.
- The Spanish words *la hacienda* mean *home* or *house*. Explain why Woodpecker desires to build a home in Señor Saguaro's tough lining. How does this help Woodpecker and his family?
- The Spanish words *un hoyo* means *a hole*. Will the hole Woodpecker is creating help or hurt Señor Saguaro? Explain your answer.
- How does Woodpecker's eating pests and bugs benefit Señor Saguaro? How so?
- The Spanish words *mi fruta* means *my fruit*. It's obvious how eating the fruit benefits Pack Rat. But how about Señor Saguaro? Does Pack Rat's munching help or hurt Señor Saguaro? Explain your answer.
- The word *descendants* means offspring, family, and lineage. Consider the importance of Pack Rat's fruit hiding and eating to Señor Saguaro's royal legacy. Without Pack Rat, would there be any baby saguaros? Explain your answer.
- The Spanish words *muchas gracias* mean *thank you, very much*. At first Señor Saguaro seemed irritated by Bat, Woodpecker, and Pack Rat. At the end of the story he's grateful to them. He even calls them his friends! What changed? What happened to cause Señor Saguaro to see the animals differently?
- How do you see the animals differently? Explain your answer.

Common Core State Anchor Standards:

Reading: CCRA-R.1, R.2, R.3, R.4, R.7, R.8, R.10 Writing: CCRA-W.1, W.4, W.5, W.7, W.9 Speaking & Listening: CCRA-SL.1, SL.2, SL.4, SL.6

Next Generation Science Standards: LS2: Ecosystems: Interactions, Energy, and Dynamics; LS2.A: Interdependent Relationships



The King of the Desert Foldable Project

“Sip, tap, and munch away! Muchas gracias, mi amigos!”

Objective: To identify and explain the plant cycle as represented in SEÑOR SAGUARO: KING OF THE DESERT.

Materials:

- SEÑOR SAGUARO: KING OF THE DESERT, the book
- The King of the Desert Plant Cycle Foldable (following page)
- The King of the Desert Plant Cycle Labels (following page)
- Scissors
- Glue stick or tape
- Writing materials

Procedure:

- Lead a discussion about how the animals in the story contributed to the care and continued growth cycle of the Saguaro cactus plant. More specifically, make note of the fact that...
 - ~ Pack Rat hides fruit in underground tunnels, sprouting new cactus plants.
 - ~ Woodpecker cares for the Saguaro by eating bugs and pests.
 - ~ Bat pollinated the Saguaro flowers.
 - ~ Pack Rat eats the Saguaro fruit.
- Distribute copies of the King of the Desert Plant Cycle Foldable and the King of the Desert Plant Cycle Labels.
- On the King of the Desert Plant Cycle Foldable, instruct students to use scissors to trim around the border of the foldable and fold it in half along the dotted lines. Tell them to use scissors to create paper strips by cutting along the bold lines separating the words being careful to stop at the dotted line.
- Have students trim around the borders King of the Desert Plant Cycle Labels.
- Using tape or glue sticks, instruct students to first secure the correct King of the Desert Plant Cycle Labels beneath its corresponding label strip. Next, to add the matching image to the definition tab.
- Encourage students to write an informative essay about the process of the plant development cycle.
- Using their King of the Desert Plant Cycle Foldable as a visual, have students identify the roles the animals played in caring for Señor Saguaro and how they assisted in the plant’s cycle of life.



pests.

The King of the Desert Plant Cycle Foldable Project

seed

plant

flower

fruit



Pack Rat eats
the Saguaro
fruit.



Bat pollinates
the Saguaro
flowers.



Woodpecker cares
for the Saguaro
by eating bugs
and pests.



Pack Rat hides fruit
in underground
tunnels, sprouting
new cactus plants.