

# The SEL Interactive Read Aloud Collection

## Tulare County Office of Education

Tim A. Hire, County Superintendent of Schools

### The Turnip by Jan Brett

**Self-Awareness** (understanding personal strengths and persistence)

**Self-Management** (perseverance in problem-solving)

**Social Awareness** (recognizing the importance of teamwork and helping others)

**Relationship Skills** (cooperation, communication, and working together)

**Responsible Decision-Making** (finding solutions that benefit everyone)

#### Background

*The Turnip* by Jan Brett is a retelling of a traditional folktale, featuring a badger family, a hedgehog, a ram, and an unexpected bear. When the badger family finds a giant turnip, they struggle to pull it from the frozen ground. Despite their best efforts, they can't do it alone. Eventually, with the help of an unlikely hero, they discover the power of teamwork. This beautifully illustrated story teaches persistence, cooperation, and problem-solving.

#### Before You Read

Look at the cover—what do you notice about the animals? What do you think they are trying to do?

What do you think will happen in the story? Have you ever tried to do something difficult on your own?

What does it mean to work together? Can you think of a time when teamwork helped you accomplish something?

Why is it important to keep trying even when something is hard?

What do you think the turnip might represent in the story?

#### While You Read

##### Guiding Questions

**(Self-Awareness)** Why does the badger family want to pull the turnip out? How do they feel when they can't do it?

**(Self-Management)** How do the badgers react when they struggle to pull the turnip? Have you ever had to keep trying at something?

**(Social Awareness)** What do the other animals do when they see the badgers struggling? Why do they want to help?

**(Relationship Skills)** How do the animals communicate and work together? Do

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	<p>you think teamwork makes it easier?</p> <p><b>(Responsible Decision-Making)</b> The animals could have given up. Why do you think they keep trying?</p> <p><b>(Self-Management)</b> How do you think the bear feels when he sees the turnip? What does he decide to do?</p> <p><b>(Social Awareness)</b> Why is it funny that the bear <b>accidentally</b> helps solve the problem? What does this teach us about teamwork?</p> <p><b>(Self-Awareness)</b> How do the badgers feel when they finally get the turnip out? How does their mood change?</p> <p><b>(Relationship Skills)</b> How does the ending show that <b>everyone can contribute</b> in different ways?</p> <p><b>(Responsible Decision-Making)</b> What lesson does this story teach us about problem-solving and asking for help?</p>
<p><b>After Reading</b></p>	<p><b>K-2 Activity: “Pulling Together” Teamwork Game</b></p> <p>Objective: Students will practice teamwork and problem-solving through a fun, cooperative challenge.</p> <p>Activity Steps:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Discussion: Talk about how the animals in the story worked together to solve a problem.</li> <li>2. Team Challenge: Have students work in small groups to complete a task (e.g., pulling a heavy object together, moving a ball across the room without using their hands, or stacking cups to build a tower).</li> <li>3. Reflection: After the challenge, ask, “What made it easier to work as a team? How did you help each other?”</li> <li>4. Extension: Students draw a picture of a time they worked together with others.</li> </ol> <p><b>3-5 Activity: “Stuck Turnip” Problem-Solving Writing</b></p> <p>Objective: Students will reflect on a time when they faced a challenge and how they worked through it.</p> <p>Activity Steps:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Discussion: Ask, “Have you ever had a ‘stuck turnip’ moment? A time when you needed help to solve a problem?”</li> <li>2. Writing Prompt: “Write about a time when you had to work with others to solve a problem. What was the challenge? <b>Who helped you? How did</b></li> </ol>

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	<p>you finally succeed?”</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>3. <b>Pair Sharing:</b> Students share their stories with a partner, discussing what they learned.</li><li>4. <b>Class Reflection:</b> As a group, create a “We Work Better Together” chart with ways to help each other succeed.</li></ol>
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