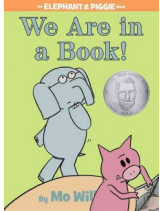


# Elephant and Piggie: In a Book and At the Library!



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With a wry wit honed as an Emmy Award winning writer and animator for *Sesame Street*, author and illustrator Mo Willems broke into the world of Children's Literature in a big way in 2003 with a bus obsessed pigeon. The following year he endeared himself to children and parents alike with his spot on depiction of a distraught toddler who has lost her stuffed animal in the picturebook ***Knuffle Bunny***, which also earned Willems his second Caldecott Honor medal from the American Library Association (ALA).

But it was Willems' *Elephant and Piggie* books for early readers that secured his renown as "the Dr. Seuss of this generation." In fact, his first *Elephant and Piggie* book: ***There is a Bird on Your Head!*** received the 2008 Geisel Award Medal, which the ALA gives to the author(s) and illustrator(s) of the most distinguished American book for beginning readers published in English in the United States during the preceding year. The winners are recognized especially for their ability to creatively and imaginatively engage children in reading. Willems won the Geisel Award again in 2009 for his second Elephant and Piggie book: ***Are You Ready to Play Outside?*** He received the Geisel Honor Award in 2011 and 2012 for the *Elephant and Piggie* stories: ***We Are in a Book!*** and ***I Broke My Trunk***.

If you haven't yet introduced your beginner reader to an *Elephant and Piggie* story -- there are now 17 to choose from -- each one as delightful as the next, all featuring large type and short sentences that manage to convey the charming friendship Elephant and Piggie share. (If Willems is this generation's Dr. Seuss, Elephant and Piggie are this generation's Frog and Toad -- good friends who appear in the beginner reader stories by Arnold Lobel.)

Whether you are a brand new or longtime fan of Elephant and Piggie, you are sure to enjoy meeting them this Friday, April 13 at 4:30 pm when we will be sharing some of their stories, a short film, and a craft celebrating their adventures together. Call us at 349-3100, or register online to reserve a seat. And stop by the reference desk between 2:30 and 4 pm Friday afternoon to try out the "Don't Let the Pigeon Run this App" activity we have on our iPads. In the meantime, you can create a dance for Elephant and Piggie at [The Pigeon Presents](#) website, or visit [Mo Willems' website](#) to find more fun and games!

Posted by Lisa C. on April 10, 2012

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