

# My Friend is Sad

by Mo Willems

Children will find this book of misidentification and repetitive phrasing, funny and easy to read. Elephant and piggy are true friends and will do anything to make each other laugh.



## Read

### Before:

Introduce the book and tell the children a little bit about it. Follow with a comment or question that is related to the story such as, *How do you know when someone is sad?* 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 elephant is so sad?

### 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.

### After:

Discuss the story. Ask questions...

- What was elephant doing?
- What were some things that piggy dressed up as?
- What was elephant's reaction to the cowboy, clown and robot?
- What really made elephant happy?
- Why didn't the cowboy, clown or robot make elephant happy?
- Why does piggy make elephant happy?

## Do

### Costume Show

Using the dramatic play center, art supplies and blocks, have the children build their own costume. They need to design something that will make others happy. Give each child a few minutes to display their costume. You will need to model how to give positive feedback. For example: *I love how colorful your costume is; I really appreciate all the different scarves you used; That hat makes me feel happy and want to dance.* Choose children to comment (only positive) about their friend's costume.

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