



Andre's Armor Guided Read Aloud

Activity Guide

Learning objectives:

- Vaccines teach your body how to protect itself from different viruses (germ monsters)
- Getting a shot at the doctors might be scary, but it is a great way to keep us healthy.

Materials:

- *Andre's Armor* by Dr. Mohamed Jalloh
- [Read Aloud Prompt Labels](#)

Advance preparation:

Before using the activity, if the copy of the book you are using does not have the *Read Aloud Prompt Labels* already added, you will need to put them on the appropriate pages before you begin. See the labels and directions for applying the labels [here](#).

What to do:

1. Introduce the activity by asking children to think about a time they visited a doctor.
 - *Have you ever been to the doctor?*
 - *Were you sick when you went? Have you even been to the doctor when you weren't sick?*
 - *What was the doctor's office like?*
 - *What kinds of things did you do while you were there? What did the doctor and nurses do?*
 - *Have you gotten a shot before at the doctor's office?*

Optional extension:

If time and space allow, encourage students to pretend that they are visiting the doctor. Measure their height, check their eyes and ears, and test their reflexes. If there are stuffed animals or action figures in the classroom, these toys can be the patients instead. The students can be the doctors and nurses and give their patients their checkups.

2. Explain that you're going to read a story. Read the title and author aloud, then show the children the cover of the book and ask them to tell you about what they see and what they think the book might be about. Encourage all answers and make sure to hear from many children.
 - *What do you see?*
 - *What do you notice about what the boy is wearing? Have you ever seen anyone else wearing an outfit like that? Why might someone wear a helmet and carry a shield? (point out that this outfit is an example of armor—like a knight might wear)*
 - *What do you think those creatures around the outside might be? How do you think they feel looking at the little boy in his armor?*
 - *What do you think this story might be about?*
3. Read the story aloud, making sure that all children can see the pictures as you read. Use the *Read Aloud Prompt Labels* to encourage conversations and movement as you read. Follow these helpful tips during this activity:
 - Read slowly and clearly, making sure that all children can see the pictures.
 - Have fun while you read! The more fun you are having, the more the children will follow your lead and engage positively with the book.

- When you ask a question, give the children time to think about it before you take answers. Repeat their answers and don't be afraid to ask follow-up questions of the children.
 - Some pages include extra vocabulary words as part of the illustrations like macrophagy (something that eats very small particles like bacteria) and white blood cells (cells in our body that help to fight sicknesses and keep us healthy). For children ages 4-5, point out these exciting words and encourage them to say them along with you. For younger children, you can skip them in order to keep the story moving.
 - Invite other grownups in the room (teachers, caregivers, aides, etc.) to sit and engage with the story, too.
 - It's okay if some children move around while they listen to the story. Just because a young child is laying down, standing up, or rocking on their knees, it doesn't mean they are not paying attention.
 - Some of the prompts will ask you to model scientific thinking with the children. This is an important practice that helps children to become familiar with the process of making sense of new information.
4. After you finish the story, show the cover of the book again. Ask the children to tell you about what's happening on the cover. Encourage them to make connections between the story and their own experiences with vaccines and germ monsters.
- *Do we remember what this little boy's name is? He visited somewhere important in our story—where did he go?*
 - *Do we remember what we called the outfit he is wearing? Why do you think he's wearing green armor? How did he get that green armor?*
 - *Do you see any germ monsters with wings on the front? Is Andre protected from those green germ monsters? What about the other germ monsters? How could he protect himself from those monsters?*

Optional Extension:

If time allows, encourage the students to draw themselves in armor like Andre from the story. Then, draw the germ monsters their armor will help protect against.

What's going on:

COVID-19 vaccines give your body instructions to learn what the coronavirus looks like. Then your body breaks down the vaccine and flushes it out. If you catch the virus later, your body can recognize it and attack it right away. You're less likely to get seriously sick because your body is prepared.

In this story, this process is simplified. It also gives little learners a glimpse at the process of developing and testing a vaccine, too! Thousands of volunteers of different ages, races, ethnicities, and communities helped researchers make sure the vaccines are safe for everyone. Millions more around the world have now safely received the vaccines. When you get vaccinated, doctors closely watch for rare, unintended effects. There's no evidence that vaccines affect your ability to have children. Overall, the risks of COVID-19 are much more serious than the risks of the vaccines.

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