



I am Not a Chair

Written & Illustrated by: Ross Burach

Could there be anything worse for Giraffe? Maybe being sat on by a skunk or smooshed by two hapless hippos, or worst of all-- cornered by a hungry lion? No one seems to notice that Giraffe is not standing around just to be sat upon. Will he be able to find his voice and make his friends realize who he really is?

Lexile: 290 AR Level: 1.3

Author's website: www.rossburach.com

Author's twitter: <https://twitter.com/RBurach>

Book Trailer/Author Interview <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EDITJzd8uLk>

Other websites/links:

<http://ross-burach-252p.squarespace.com/books-1/>

http://enterprise.supadu.com/images/ckfinder/687/images/storytime/PPSG_IAMNotAChair_Activity.pdf

<http://lessonsbyandy.com/2017/06/i-am-not-a-chair.html>

Food: In the book there is a funny part where the lion is reading a book about ways to season meat, so this might be a good unit to talk about different types of seasoning like pepper, basil, salt, etc....

Fiction Companion Titles:

Burach, Ross. *There's a Giraffe in my Soup*

Nonfiction Companion Titles:

Marsh, Laura. National Geographic Companion: *Giraffes*

Hileman, Jane. *You Think You Know Giraffes*.

Reher, Matt. *Giraffes like to Eat*.

Story Time Activities: Discuss what it feels like to be ignored.

1. Create a tin can or toilet paper roll of the giraffe so that he has a way to hold items that try to sit on him. <http://www.preschoolzone.co.uk/giraffe-craft-idea-for-kids/tin-can-giraffe-craft-idea/>
2. Make a paper bag giraffe to tell the story and give him a voice to help him communicate that he is not a chair. As you read the story the students will use their paper bag puppet and say I am not a chair during the appropriate scene in the book. <https://iheartcraftythings.com/paper-bag-giraffe-craft.html>
3. Have students create a picture collage of an animal they wish they could use as a chair.

Discussion Questions

1. How do you think the giraffe feels when everybody ignores him and is sitting on him like he is a chair?
 - A. He might feel lonely or unloved.
2. Why does the human feel that the giraffe makes a great chair?
 - A. The giraffe matches the spots in the human's house.
3. What happens at the end of the book that makes the turtle angry?
 - A. The giraffe is ignoring him and acting like the turtle is a chair despite the fact that the giraffe did not like being treated that way.