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Ages 2 to 6 · Guided Reading Level: I

# A TEACHER'S GUIDE FOR **IT'S A TIGER!**

By David LaRochelle,  
Illustrated By Jeremy Tankard

## ABOUT THE BOOK

Kids and parents alike will rejoice in this lively read-aloud picture book. The main character runs into (and away from) a tiger over and over again as the plot gets sillier and sillier. Perfect for acting out while reading, *It's a Tiger!* offers just the right amount of excitement without being too scary, and a sweet ending with a bit of a twist.

## PRAISE FOR *IT'S A TIGER!*

★ "A boon to creative minds everywhere and a participatory storytime winner."

—*School Library Journal*, starred review

"An exciting reversal of hide-and-seek."

—*Booklist*

"A popular storytime pick." —*Publishers Weekly*

"It's a tiger, and it's sure to be a hit." —*Kirkus Reviews*

"Bouncy prose with vivid illustrations."

—*The Wall Street Journal*

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

**DAVID LaROCHELLE** is the author of many books for young people. He lives in White Bear Lake, Minnesota, where there are neither bears nor tigers. You can find out more about David and his books at [davidlarochelle.com](http://davidlarochelle.com)



## ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

**JEREMY TANKARD** is the author and illustrator of wonderful and silly books for children. He grew up in South Africa, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Canada. He currently resides in Toronto with his wife and two children. Incidentally, he thinks tigers are pretty great. You can find more of Jeremy's digitally created artwork at [jeremytankard.com](http://jeremytankard.com).





## PRE-READING ACTIVITY

Before reading the book to your class, show the students the cover. Ask them what they already know about tigers. Have any of them seen a tiger at the zoo? Ask if they would like to meet a tiger in the wild. Why or why not?

*It's a Tiger!* is an active read-aloud that lends itself to lots of participation from the listeners! As you read the story, your students can run, duck, jump, swim, hop, etc. along with the narrator. Students may also want to chime in with the reoccurring phrase, "A Tiger!"

Before turning the last page, ask your students to predict what comes next. Did they notice the crocodile's tail hanging from the tree? After seeing the crocodile, what do they think will happen next in the story?



## IT'S A \_\_\_\_\_ ! WRITING ACTIVITY

As a group or individually, your class might want to write their own stories about an animal that won't go away:

**One day I looked in my closet and found...A POLAR BEAR!**

**I ran outside to escape, but sitting in the lawn chair was...A POLAR BEAR!**

**So I got on my bike and rode to the store, and there in the ice cream freezer was...A POLAR BEAR!**

**Etc.**

Each child can illustrate one scene from the story.

Staple the pages together to create your own classroom book.



## TIGER DRAWING ACTIVITY

Artists use many different materials to create illustrations. Can your students guess what medium Jeremy Tankard used to create the pictures for *It's a Tiger!*? Show how this information is often found on the copyright page (Jeremy created the pictures by scanning ink drawings into the computer). Ask if any of your students have ever used the computer to create pictures. If you have access to a computer lab, your students might want to try drawing animals using a simple drawing program for children such as Tux Paint or Kid Pix. If you do not, have students use a variety of different mediums (crayons, watercolors, colored pencils, etc) to draw a tiger. Show students that using different art mediums together create different effects.

## IT'S A TIGER! PARADE

Cut orange construction paper into 11 x 2 inch strips. Round off one of the ends to make a tiger tail. Kids can use crayons or markers to add black stripes. Attach the tail to the back of their pants with a piece of masking tape.

Using a washable marker, black tempera paint, or an eyeliner pencil, draw tiger whiskers on each child's face.

March and growl around the room as you listen to tiger music, such as "Eye of the Tiger," "Tiger Rag," or "Carnival of the Animals."

## TIGER PUPPET TALES

Using paper lunch bags and the printout found in our activity kit at [CHRONICLEBOOKS.COM/ITSATIGER](http://CHRONICLEBOOKS.COM/ITSATIGER), have students make their own tiger puppets.

Have the students think of a location their tiger can be hiding. When each student tells their story to the group, they should describe the environment the tiger is in without actually saying the location. The other students can try to guess where each tiger is hiding!



## TIGER HABITATS

Tigers need to live in areas with lots of water, vegetation and food sources, such as wild pigs, deer, buffalo and other mammals. Jungles are the most common place for tigers to make their homes. The tiger in *It's a Tiger!* is found in many different habitats. Go through the book and have the students decide if a tiger could survive in the different areas shown (cave, boat, etc). For each habitat, have the students make a list of the things they would expect to see. What other animals live in each place? Are there any plants in these habitats? Is there water for the tiger to drink?

## TAKE A CLOSER LOOK AT TIGERS

Even if you live far from a tiger's natural habitat or a zoo, there are plenty of Internet resources that can give your students a close-up view of real-life tigers.

Try these two for starters:

<http://kids.sandiegozoo.org/animals/mammals/tiger>

<http://kids.nationalgeographic.com/kids/animals/creaturefeature/tiger/>

Below are some interesting facts about tigers that you can share with your students.

For a fun guessing game, intersperse fictional statements about tigers into the list below as you read it aloud. Have your students guess which statements are facts and which are fiction. Students who correctly identify the facts can receive points and win a prize!

- Tigers are the largest species of wild cats. They can weigh over 700 pounds!
- A tiger's canine teeth can be up to three inches long.
- The roar of a tiger can be heard two miles away.
- Most tigers have more than 100 stripes, and no two tigers' patterns are alike.
- Tigers are nocturnal, which means they are more active at night. They can see in the dark about six times better than a person.
- Unlike many cats, tigers love water and are good swimmers.
- Tigers are endangered, which means they are at risk of dying out. It is important to protect them and the places they live.



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VISIT [CHRONICLEBOOKS.COM/ITSATIGER](http://CHRONICLEBOOKS.COM/ITSATIGER) to see the animated trailer and download printable activity sheets!

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