

Fiction

# Hello, Koko!

by Michael McDade

illustrated by Dave Kirwan



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READ

Poetry

## STRATEGIES & SKILLS

### Comprehension

**Strategy:** Ask and Answer Questions

**Skill:** Use Illustrations

### Vocabulary

decide, different, friendship, glance, proper, relationship, stares, trade

### Phonics

Two-letter blends

### Vocabulary Strategy

Sentence Clues

Word count: 777



**Education**

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## Essential Question

How can a pet be an important friend?



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## Chapter 1

# The Perfect Pet

Matt lives with his grandmother.

“Nana,” he said, “I think we should get a pet. A pet could keep you company when I’m at school.”

“I’d like some company, Matt, but what pet should we get? We don’t have much space here.”





Matt and Nana talked a long time about different pets. Then one day, when they were at the park feeding the birds, Nana stood up suddenly.

“I think I know the perfect pet for us, Matt!” she said. “Let’s go!”

Matt and Nana caught the bus to the library where they read some books about pets. Nana grew even more sure about what pet she wanted. When they finished reading, Matt said, "You're right, Nana. It will be the perfect pet for us!"





Matt and Nana went to the pet store. "Look, Nana!" Matt said, pointing to a cage that stood next to the counter. "She's the most beautiful parrot! She'll be good company for both of us. We can name her Koko."

"If you take good care of them, parrots can be wonderful pets," said the store owner. "You can build a great friendship with them too."

## Chapter 2

# Learning to Talk



Matt and Nana brought Koko home.  
“Koko is only six months old,” said Nana.  
“The book said that most parrots can learn to talk if you start teaching them when they are young.”

“Let’s try!” said Matt.



“I’ll help you,” offered Nana with a smile. “It’s best if you start with single words and short phrases,” she continued. “They are easy for birds to learn.”

At first, it was fun trying to teach Koko to talk. Matt began by saying “Hello” to her every morning. “Hello, Koko!” Matt said cheerfully. Koko would only glance at him and then turn away.



After a week, Koko stopped looking away when Matt said her name. She seemed to listen to what Matt was saying. Sometimes Koko looked at Matt and tilted her head to the side, so Matt did too. "Look at you two," laughed Nana. "You look so funny!"



Matt decided to keep a chart of what he was teaching Koko. He wrote down the words he tried to teach her, how much time he spent talking to her, and whether she replied.

“Maybe you should change the words now and then, so Koko doesn’t get bored,” Nana suggested. “And try to keep the lessons short, so Koko doesn’t get tired.”

Day	Words	Time	Result
Monday	hello	five minutes	nothing
Tuesday	hello, Koko	three minutes	nothing
Wednesday	hello, Koko	five minutes	nothing!
Thursday	hello, Matt	six minutes	nothing!!
Friday	Koko, Matt	four minutes	nothing!!!

## Chapter 3

# A Silent Bird



After three weeks, Koko still hadn't said a word. "Koko is never going to talk!" complained Matt. He wondered if he was doing something wrong. He'd read every book about parrots from the library, but nothing seemed to work. "Why doesn't she talk back?" he asked. "She just stares at me!" He felt like giving up.

Nana tried to comfort Matt. "Koko probably needs more time. We have to wait for her to decide to trust us," she said. "Just keep trying. She's still good company even if she doesn't talk."

Although he was upset, Matt knew Nana was right. "Koko will talk when she's ready to talk," he agreed with a heavy sigh.



Matt wasn't ready to completely give up on Koko, so he started giving her treats whenever he talked to her.

"Koko really likes those nuts we bought for her," said Nana.

"I know," Matt laughed. "When she sees one in my hand, she gets so excited. I trade her a treat for making a sound."





“I think the treats did the trick,” said Matt. “She trusts me more, and I feel closer to her too.”

“You have a good relationship with her,” smiled Nana. “She’s part of the family now.”

# A Surprising Answer



Finally, after several weeks, Matt had a big surprise when he came home from school. "Hello," he said to Nana. Then Matt walked over to Koko's cage. "Hello, Koko! Who's the smartest bird in the world?" he asked.



Koko looked at Matt and squawked, “Matt! Nana!” Matt nearly fell over when he heard Koko say her first proper words!

“I guess I taught Koko a few things today!” laughed Nana.

Now Koko trusted them. She was ready to talk.



# Respond to Reading

## Summarize

Use the chart to summarize *Hello, Koko!*

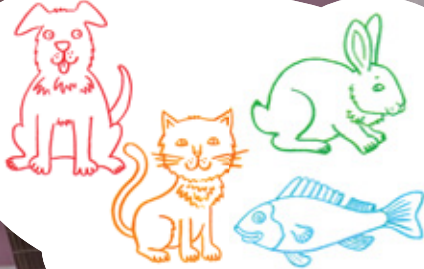
Character	Setting	Events

## Text Evidence

1. What makes this story fiction? [Genre](#)
2. What kind of pet did Matt and his grandmother think about?  
Use the illustrations to help you answer. [Use Illustrations](#)
3. Use sentence clues to figure out the meaning of *tilted* on page 8.  
[Sentence Clues](#)
4. Write about how Matt gets Koko to trust him. [Write About Reading](#)

## Compare Texts

Read about a pet that is a special friend.



## Who Is My Best Friend?

Can you guess, can you say,  
If I gave you a day,

Who my best friend might be,  
One that's special to me?

Shall I give you a clue?  
Maybe one? Or a few?

snail



dog



frog



He's smaller than a whale.  
He's faster than a snail.  
He's loyal like a dog.  
He can croak like a frog.  
He's clever like a fox.  
He's stubborn like an ox.



Hello!

He's chatty like a chimp.  
He's shy like a shrimp.

He's all this and more,  
My sweet parrot, Igor.

He's a best friend to me.  
Say hello and you'll see!



## Make Connections

How can parrots be important friends?

### Essential Question

What good qualities do the parrots in the story and the poem share? **Text to Text**

# Focus on Literary Elements

**Rhyme** Words that rhyme have the same ending sound.

**What to Look For** In the poem *Who Is My Best Friend?* the last words in each pair of lines have the same ending sound. The words *say* and *day* have the same ending sound. Which words in the poem rhyme, even though their endings are not spelled the same?

## Your Turn

Write a poem about an animal that is your friend. Use words that rhyme at the ends of some lines. Include the sound this animal makes too.

# Thinkmark

## Setting

Where does the story *Hello, Koko!* take place? When does it take place?

## Characters

Who is the main character in *Hello, Koko!*? Who are the other characters?

How does Matt change from the beginning to the end of the story?

## Sequence of Events

What happens first, then, next and last in *Hello, Koko!*?

## Make Connections

Think about the feelings Matt has during the story. Describe a time when you have felt one of those feelings.