First Day at Zoo School



An activity kit for libraries, bookstores and classrooms

With coloring pages, writing and drawing exercises for new readers and an easy snack. Kids will love discovering the give and take of friendship with Alfred and Amanda as they begin their first day at Zoo School.

About the Book

It's the first day of Zoo School and Amanda is ready! Alfred is not so sure. When Amanda realizes that everyone else has a best friend she decides Alfred is the one for her, even though he may have other ideas. This thoughtful story explores what it means to be a friend.

"Dillard's illustrations, a mix of spots and comic panels, deftly express the characters' thoughts and feelings" Kirkus Reviews

"Dillard keeps the story's messaging subtle, and her crisp images and candid storytelling capture the give-and-take inherent in many early friendships." Publishers Weekly

"The text is a perfect combination of narration and word balloons that lets the story be seen from both sides. The pictures are crisp and clearly show a wide range of emotions." School Library Journal

Creative Child Magazine named "First Day at Zoo School" a 2014 Preferred Choice Award

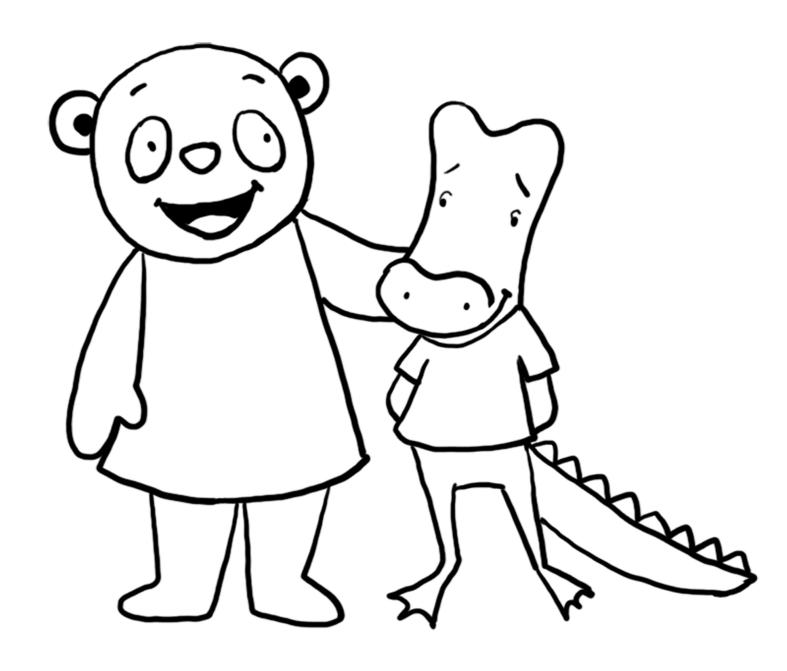




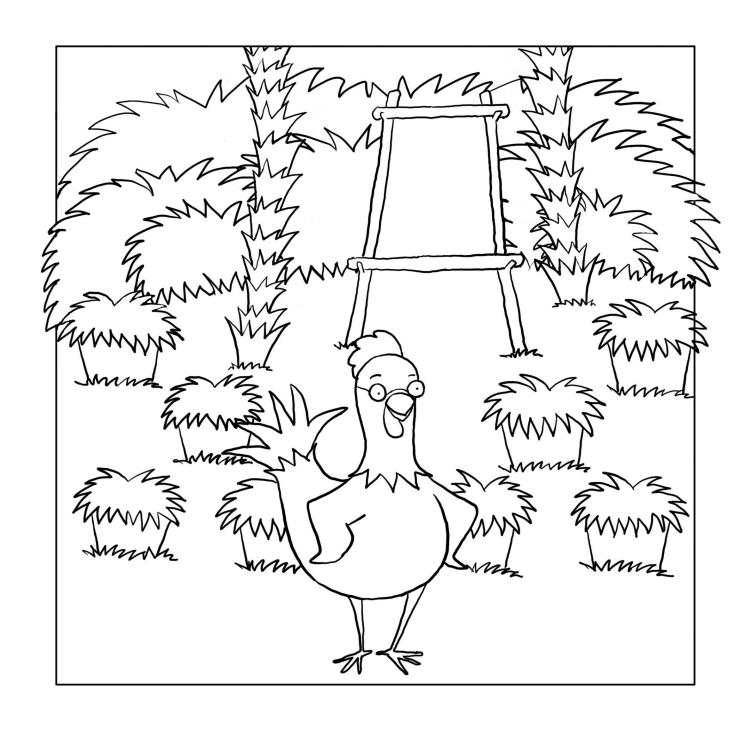
About the Author

Sarah Dillard is the author and illustrator of several books, including Perfectly Arugula, Extraordinary Warren; a Super Chicken and First Day at Zoo School.

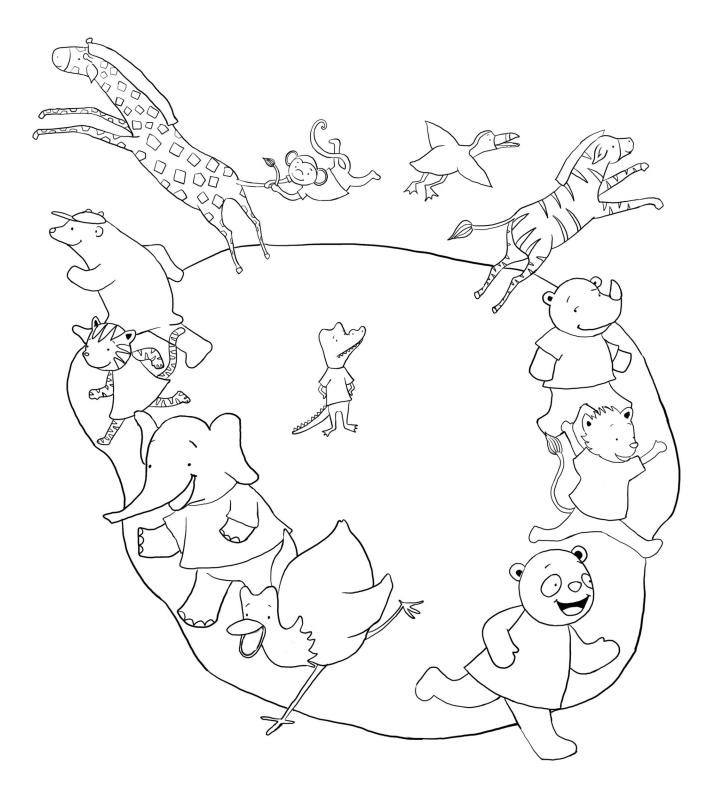
She grew up in Massachusetts, and now lives on a mountain in Vermont with her best friends; her husband and their chocolate lab.



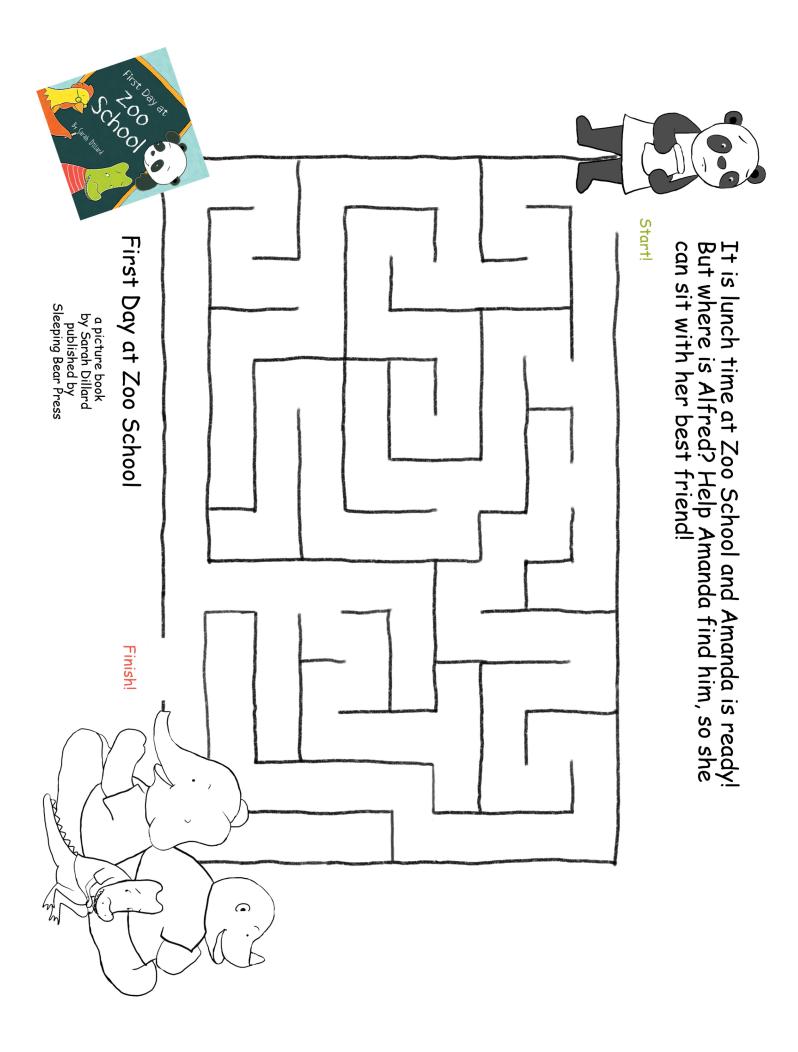
Amanda & Alfred



Mrs. Wattles

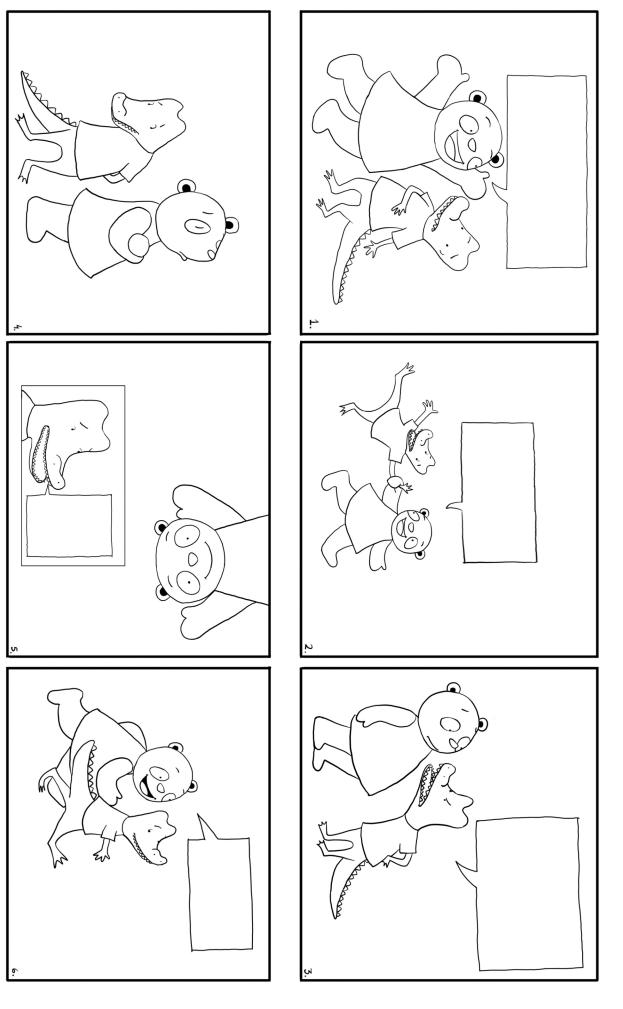


Tag- You're it!



Color and write your own Amanda and Alfred Story!

What is Amanda saying to Alfred. Why does Alfred get mad? What does he say to make Amanda forgive him? Using the panels below, write your own words in the speech balloons to tell the story YOUR way!



from "First Day at Zoo School" a picture book by Sarah Dillard, published by Sleeping Bear Press

Draw and write your own Zoo School Story!

In the panels below draw and write your very own story with Alfred and Amanda. You can even make up your own characters!

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Snack Time!

Let Amanda and Alfred help turn snack time into a delicious exercise in sharing.

What You Need:

Bananas Chocolate Cookies

What To Do:

Divide kids into pairs. Give one in each pair a banana and the other a chocolate chip cookie.

Encourage them to share like Alfred and Amanda do.



Take the Story out of the Book!

By acting the roles of Alfred and Amanda, kids can enjoy exploring the ups and downs of friendships in a fun and creative way.

What to Do:

Divide the kids into pairs and have them choose which one will be Alfred and which will be Amanda. Give them a loose story line and freedom to improvise.



Some Story Ideas:



Amanda is excited about going to Zoo School and Alfred isn't. How will Amanda convince Alfred that school will be fun?

It is lunch time and Alfred tries to hide from Amanda because he is not sure that he wants to sit with her. Will Amanda find Alfred? What will she say when she finds him?

Alfred has had enough of Amanda telling him what to do. How does he tell Amanda that? How does she react?

Alfred realizes he has hurt Amanda's feelings and he feels bad. Can he and Amanda ever be best friends again?



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