

Are you a **JASPER** or an **OLLIE**?

JASPER & OLLIE



By Alex Willan

JASPER & OLLIE

Classroom Activity Guide

About the Book

Best friends Jasper and Ollie decide to go to the pool. On your mark, get set . . . WAIT! As Jasper races ahead—crashing into the mailman, speeding past the ice cream truck—Ollie takes his sweet time, pausing to admire a butterfly, smell a daisy, and help the mail carrier pick up his letters!

With a clever design that shows Jasper’s hectic rush compared with Ollie’s casual stroll, this hilarious visual story allows young readers to recognize the differences between the two pals. It is a smartly paced, hugely funny celebration of our differences. Kids and grown-ups will giggle as they decide if they are more of a “Jasper” or an “Ollie.” It is also a great way to share the concept of “taking time to smell the roses”—a perfect lesson for our overly scheduled world.



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About the Author

ALEX WILLAN
grew up in Louisville, Kentucky, where he was seldom seen without his sketchbook in hand. His love of drawing led him to earn a BFA in illustration from Savannah College of Art and Design. Alex has exhibited in art galleries and has painted murals, theater sets, and squirmy kids’ faces, but his true love has always been children’s books. He lives in Chicago with his dog, Harley. *Jasper & Ollie* is Alex’s first book. See more of his work at alexwillan.com, and follow him on Instagram at [@alexwillan](https://www.instagram.com/alexwillan).



Photo © 2019 by Max Bare

Pre-Reading Activity

In *Jasper & Ollie*, the two friends are different from each other in a very noticeable way. We could say they are opposites: Jasper is very fast, and Ollie is very slow. Ask students for other examples of opposites. Then, have students work alone or in small groups to come up with as many opposites as possible.



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Mindfulness Activities



Ask your students to look back at the pages in the book that show Jasper racing around trying to get to the pool or find Ollie. Point out the things he has knocked over or animals he disturbed. Now find the illustrations that show Ollie interacting with those same objects or animals. The following activities introduce students to techniques so they can interact with their surroundings in a more mindful way.

Object Pass

Gather three small objects that your students can easily hold but that have some interesting feature, such as a piece of fruit, a ball, or a picture. Hand one object to three students and tell them they will have three seconds to examine the objects before they must pass it to the student next to them. Once everyone has examined the object, ask them to write down what they remember about it. Repeat the process with the same object. This time, let them examine it for fifteen to thirty seconds. Have them record their observations, encouraging them to notice how the object feels, sounds, smells, etc. Ask your students to compare the list with their first observations and discuss the differences between the two.



Nature Walk

Take your students to the playground and tell them they have five to ten seconds to notice as much as possible about the playground, and have them record their observations. Now give them one minute to walk around the playground and record their observations. Ask them to pay attention to what they see, hear, feel, and smell.

Discuss the differences between the two lists of observations.



Activities prepared by Lucy Podmore, School Librarian, San Antonio, TX
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Name _____

Animal Facts

Jasper & Ollie is a story of two animal friends. Jasper is a very curious fox who is full of energy, and Ollie is a slower-moving sloth. What facts do you know about foxes and sloths? Use books in your library or a website to discover facts about these two animals. Where do they live? What do they eat? What do they look like? List the facts you discover below.



Fox Facts	Sloth Facts

Educators: Reproduce this activity sheet for students.



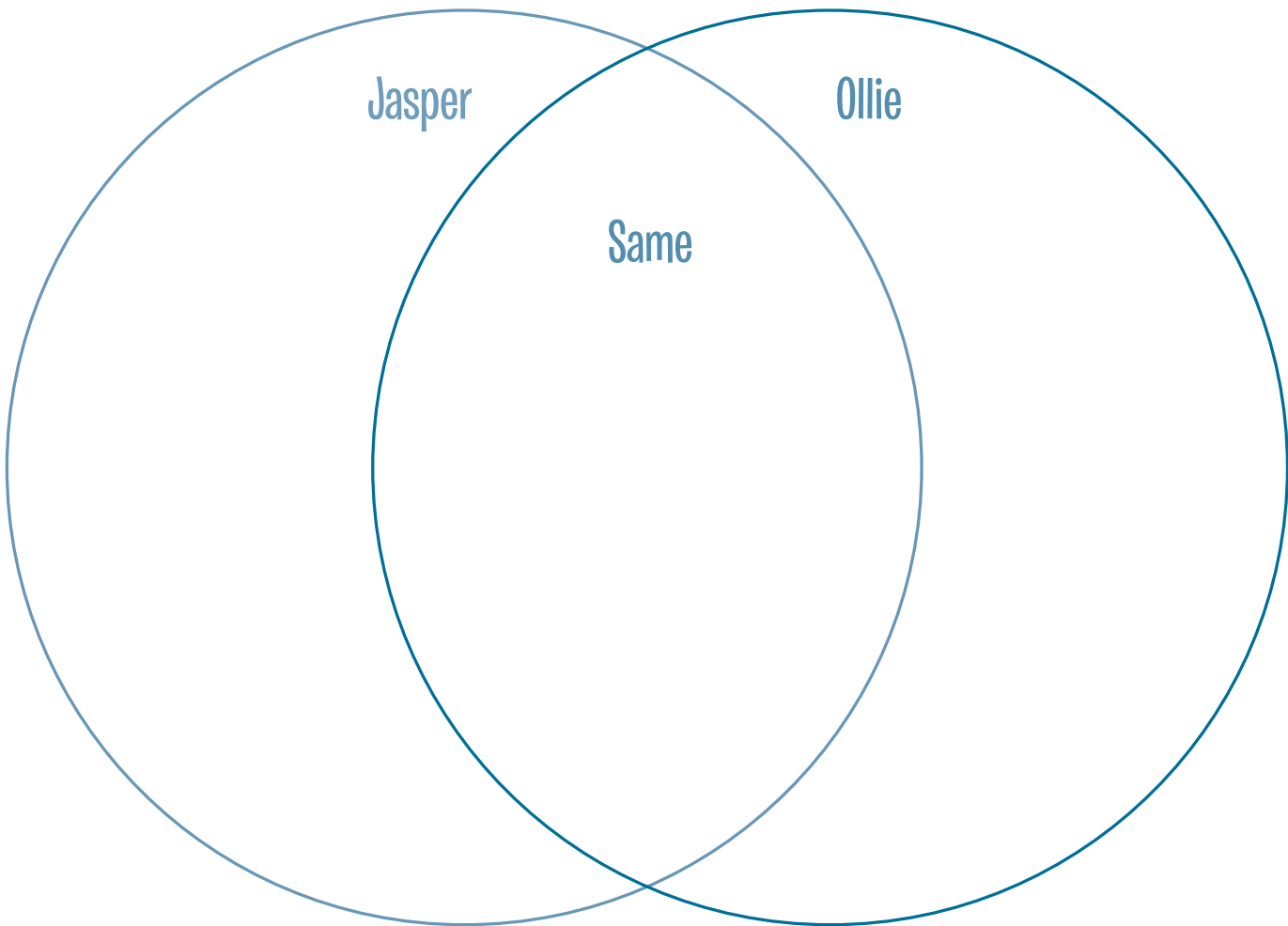
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Different but the Same



Even though Jasper and Ollie are very different, they are still friends because they enjoy the same things. Complete the Venn diagram below to show the differences between the two friends, but also show things they have in common or things that are the same about them.



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**On Your Mark,
Get Set . . . Wait!**

It's STORYTIME!



BEFORE STARTING THE STORY

Before starting the story, ask your audience to grab a buddy or two! Have them sit next to each other and say their names before beginning the story. This will be the perfect way for the children to get to know each other, make friends, and enjoy the story even more! After everyone is settled in, show the kids the book and ask them, “What do you think this book will be about?” “Who do you think will be the faster character?” and “What do you think these characters are going to be like?”

AS YOU READ

This book is great for engaging your audience! Before you see Ollie on the bottom of the page try asking your audience where they think he is. Ask your attendees, “Where’s Ollie?” and have them shout out where they think he is. Have another staff member hold up the cutout of Ollie around the store, and ask kids to spot him.

END THE STORYTIME

End your storytime by encouraging the audience to be happy about Jasper and Ollie reuniting! Ask them questions like “What could Ollie have done differently?” “What kind of lesson did Jasper learn?” “Which character are you more like?” and “Who are your friends and family more like?” You can also tell them about the buddy system and how they should never leave their buddy!



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Where's Ollie?

Ollie is lost again! This time he is somewhere in the scene below. Can you find him?



Retrace Jasper's steps!

Jasper went many places looking for Ollie. Connect the numbers below to follow his path. Then, draw in some of the places he looked before reuniting with Ollie.



1

2

3

4



5

6

7

8

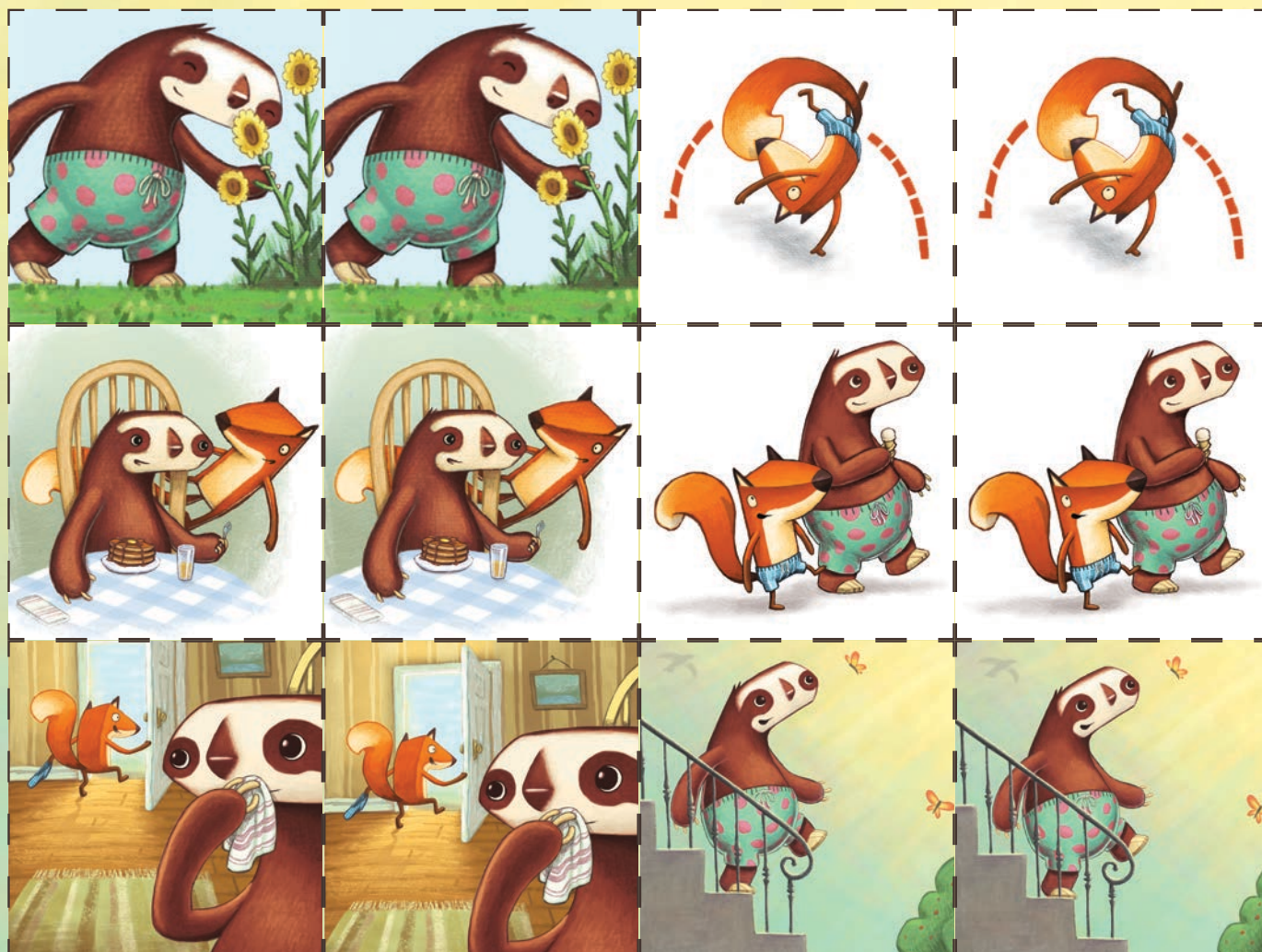
9

10



Match the cards of Jasper & Ollie

Cut out the cards of Jasper & Ollie, lay them face down, mix them up, and find their matches. Make as many copies as needed for your audience.





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