

Name: _____

I Am Who I Am

by Rebecca Besser

Matt Mole started digging a hole in the ground.

Sam Squirrel was collecting nuts nearby and hopped over to watch.

"What are you doing?" asked Sam Squirrel.

"I'm digging a hole to keep my worms in," Matt Mole said.

Sam Squirrel frowned. "Why don't you keep them in a tree? That's what I do."

"I can't climb trees," Matt Mole said. "I have to dig holes. I am who I am, and I do what I do."

Sam Squirrel shook his head and went back to gathering nuts.

Becky Bird saw Matt Mole digging and flew down to see what he was doing.

"Why are you digging a hole?" Becky Bird asked.

"I'm digging a hole to keep my worms in," Matt Mole said.

"Why don't you eat them? That's what I do," Becky Bird chirped.

"I'm not always hungry," Matt Mole said. "I like to save them for later. I am who I am, and I do what I do."

Becky Bird shrugged and flew off to find worms and berries to feed her family.

Matt Mole kept digging. Soon, Greg Groundhog came to visit Matt Mole.

"Are you done with your hole yet?" Greg Groundhog asked.

"No," Matt Mole said. "Sam Squirrel said I should keep them in a tree. Becky Bird said I should eat them. I told them, 'I am who I am, and I do what I do.'"

Greg Groundhog laughed. "It's hard for them to understand that others are different. I'm proud of you for being yourself. I'm finished digging my burrow. Come over and get some worms when you're done."

"Okay," Matt Mole said, and was glad he had a friend who understood him.

Characters



Matt Mole



Sam Squirrel



Becky Bird



Greg Groundhog

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1. What does Matt Mole want to do with his worms?

2. Why doesn't Matt keep them in a tree?

3. Why doesn't Matt eat his worms?

4. What is the setting of this story?

5. Why is Gary Groundhog proud of Matt?

- a. He is doing what his friends tell him.
- b. He is taking good care of his worms.
- c. He is being a good friend.
- d. He is not afraid to be himself.

6. What kind of story is this?

- a. a non-fiction article
- b. a fiction story
- c. a biography
- b. a poem

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I Am Who I Am

Vocabulary Activity

Draw straight lines to match the vocabulary words with their meanings.

- | | |
|--------------|---|
| 1. gather | a. animal that climbs trees and eats nuts |
| 2. hungry | b. to collect |
| 3. squirrel | c. wanting food |
| 4. different | d. an animal home in the ground |
| 5. burrow | e. animal that digs holes in the ground |
| 6. mole | f. not the same |

Now circle the words in the puzzle.

They are hidden up and down, sideways, and diagonal.



W	H	B	O	N	M	A	C	G	G
S	Q	U	I	R	R	E	L	Q	A
P	K	R	N	E	P	O	Z	E	T
U	B	R	T	G	O	L	M	Z	H
Y	Q	O	A	H	R	K	O	U	E
P	A	W	L	P	S	Y	L	V	R
O	D	I	F	F	E	R	E	N	T

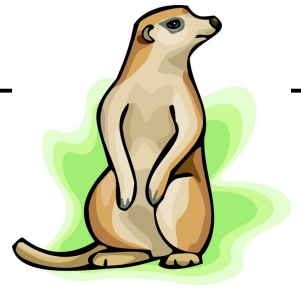


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Class activities you may want to try -

1. Read other fables, such as the "Ant and the Grasshopper," or the "Tortoise and the Hare." Compare and contrast "I Am Who I Am" to other fables.
2. Search for photos of moles, groundhogs, squirrels, and birds online. Students may be surprised to see what a real mole looks like. Print out some of the pictures and hang them up in the classroom. (Search for the pictures yourself before showing students. When you search for "moles" online, you may get some other types of pictures.)
3. Have students brainstorm a list of other appropriate titles for this story.
4. Have students make illustrations to go with the story. Each student can draw a different part of the story and write a sentence or two about the picture.
5. Discuss, write about and/or draw the different homes of each animal in the story.
 - mole - underground tunnel
 - groundhog - burrow
 - squirrel - nest
 - bird - nest

ANSWER KEY

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1. What does Matt Mole want to do with his worms?

Dig a hole and keep his worms in it.

2. Why doesn't Matt keep them in a tree?

He can't climb trees.

3. Why doesn't Matt eat his worms?

He is not hungry.

4. What is the setting of this story?

Outside. Also accept: In a forest, or similar nature answers.

5. Why is Gary Groundhog proud of Matt? d

- a. He is doing what his friends tell him.
- b. He is taking good care of his worms.
- c. He is being a good friend.
- d. He is not afraid to be himself.

6. What kind of story is this? b

- a. a non-fiction article
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U	B	R	T	G	O	L	M	Z	H
Y	Q	O	A	H	R	K	O	U	E
P	A	W	L	P	S	Y	L	V	R
O	D	I	F	F	E	R	E	N	T

