Activities for *The World According to Humphrey* by Betty Birney

You can learn a lot about life by observing another species. Meet Humphrey the hamster, the classroom pet of Room 26l. Humphrey narrates his adventures and experiences inside the classroom and out. With his sense of humor, wisdom and cheerful attitude he makes a positive difference in the lives of the students and staff at Longfellow School.

Visit denverlibrary.org or call 720-865-1111 to check out this book. You can order the print book for curbside pickup or you can check out the eBook.

Visit kids.denverlibrary.org/Book-Explorers for more book activities and discussions. Then, try one of these activities to extend the experience.

**Discussion Questions**

1. Ms. Mac said, “You can learn a lot about yourself by taking care of another species.” What do you think Ms. Mac meant by saying this? What do you think you could learn by getting to know another species?
2. Compare and contrast Ms. Mac and Mrs. Brisbane. How are they different? How are they alike?
3. Discuss the home lives of the children in Room 26. What did you learn about the different cultures and family situations of the children?
4. Humphrey was a good friend to the children and families from Room 26. What makes a good friend?

**Make a journal like Humphrey’s**

Make a journal to keep track of what goes on in your classroom or at home. Fold paper in half and staple it into a book. You can watch a video about how to make one at kids.denverlibrary.org/blog/explore-world-according-humphrey-betty-g-birney
Wish you had a hamster? Make one out of cardboard!

There are lots of ways to make a hamster! Make your pretend pet out of a toilet paper roll or empty oatmeal container. Or use your imagination and use whatever materials you have at home. There’s no wrong way to make a pretend hamster!

You might use:

- Toilet paper tube
- Brown construction paper
- White construction paper
- Black marker
- Red marker
- Scissors
- Glue or tape
- Googly eyes
- Pompoms or cotton balls

More activities

1. Draw a map of Humphrey’s ultimate hamster cage layout.

What to read next

Try these other books with animal narrators:

- Read the rest of the books in the *World According to Humphrey* series by Betty G. Birney, including *Friendship According to Humphrey* and *Trouble According to Humphrey*.
- *Stay* by Bobbie Pyron - Some of this book is told by Piper, a kid whose family moves into a shelter for families who need homes. Some of this book is told from the point of view of Baby, a dog whose person lives in the shelter, too. If you’re a kid who is interested in learning more about the world from the perspective of a sweet and funny dog, then this might be the book for you.
- *Wedgie and Gizmo* by Suzanne Selfors - Gizmo is a guinea pig who likes things just so. When his owner Elliot’s dad marries someone new, Gizmo and his human family move in with a new human family--and a new dog named Wedgie. Wedgie is happy and goofy and definitely gets in the way of Gizmo’s plans.

How about some funny classroom stories?

- *Twins* by Varian Johnson, illustrated by Shannon Wright - In this graphic novel, twins Maureen and Francine have to figure out how to be themselves--and still get along as siblings--at the start of their sixth grade year.
- *Planet Omar: Accidental Trouble Magnet* by Zanib Mian - This is another laugh-out-loud funny book told in the first person about trouble at school. Except this one is about a human kid instead of a hamster. Omar is trying to get along in a new school and not everything goes as planned. He shares his adventures with readers in this book written like a notebook with doodle illustrations.