

# A Color of His Own

By Leo Lionni



## Before Reading: Get Ready

**Tell your child what you see on the cover of the book.** Then, ask your child what they see on the cover. Read the book's title, author, and illustrator to your child.

**Activate comprehension and set a purpose for reading.** Today, we are going to read about a chameleon. A chameleon is an animal who changes colors! Our story today is a pretend story about a chameleon who changes colors. He is sad because he does not have a "color of his own" like other animals do! One day, he meets another chameleon. How do you think this chameleon will help him feel happy? Let's read and see!

**Are you ready to help me read?** (Note: Encourage your child to "pretend read" the book with you! "Pretend reading" is the first stage of reading and builds your child's language development and early reading skills!).

## During Reading: Read Together

**Sit side-by-side to share the book, or have your child sit on your lap while you read to them.** Read the book in an excited voice and encourage your child to "read" with you. Touch under each word as you read aloud to help your child match spoken words with print. If your child comments on a page or asks questions about the book, please pause and briefly discuss before returning to reading to help your child engage in the reading.

**Before reading, review the colors and animals in the book by looking through the pictures.**

- **On the last page of the book,** ask your child, "Why did the chameleons live happily ever after?"
- **After you finish reading the book,** you may want to talk with your child about how being with someone we care about can make us feel better!

# After Reading: Discuss and Extend

Ask your child whether they liked the book. Ask your child whether they want you to read the book with them again! Encourage your child to “read” the book with you when you read it again.

## After reading the book, you and your child could:

- Go to the library to find other books by Eric Carle!
- Learn more about chameleons by watching a video about them on YouTube.
- Draw several outlines of chameleons. Have your child color each chameleon a different color. Label the “color word” when your child is finished. Encourage your child to give a name to each chameleon!

**NOTE:** Videos for parents can be accessed on the LEAP website: <https://leap.cehd.gmu.edu/parent-and-family-resources/>