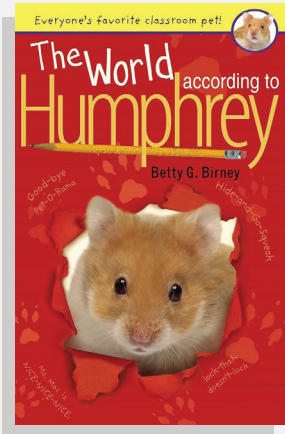


# Book Club for Kids



## ***The World According to Humphrey*** by Betty Birney

**Recommended Ages:**  
7-12



[helenplum.org](http://helenplum.org)

**Summary:** In the first book of the series, Humphrey learns to read, write, shoot rubber bands (only in self-defense, of course), turn off TVs, teach English as a second language, and more. With a lock-that-doesn't-lock and an adventurous spirit, what more could a mischievous hamster want?

### **Discussion Questions:**

1. Why does Humphrey see the world from a different point of view than the other students in Room 26? What do you imagine Humphrey would think of your classroom?
2. Ms. Mac tells Humphrey, "You can learn a lot about yourself by taking care of another species." What do you think she means by this statement?
3. Do you talk to your pets or other animals? What do you imagine animals say back to you? How do they tell you that they're happy or unhappy?
4. Describe the job of a school principal. Why does a school need a principal? What would a typical day in the life of a principal be like?
5. Think about what your classroom is like at night when no one is there. If you were spending the night in your classroom, what would it be like? What might you see and hear that you don't normally see and hear during the day?

### **Activities:**

- Mrs. Brisbane built an elaborate addition for Humphrey's cage. Draw a picture of the inside of Humphrey's cage the way you think he'd like it to be. (Don't forget the lock-that-doesn't-lock.)
- Humphrey says Ms. Mac sometimes played the bongo drums. Look up bongo drums. Make your own!
- Ms. Mac leaves Room 26 to teach in Brazil and she writes to the class and Humphrey several times. Research Brazil, focusing on one aspect of the country or culture, and share what you've found. Possible topics: geography, landmarks, language, the rainforest, the Amazon River, Brasilia, carnival, and games.

*Adapted from Penguin.*