

The Best Treasure

By Sherri Mandell | Illustrated by Tamara Anegon

READING GUIDE

About the Book

Two friends—a hippo and a kangaroo—set off to spend a morning together, looking for treasure. But while Gavi finds treasure everywhere; Mo only sees junk. Gavi collects the trinkets, convinced of their value; Mo simply doesn't understand. As they explore, dance together, and have fun, Gavi and Mo discover a priceless treasure on which they can both agree: their friendship with each other.

This early reader picture book will help readers hone their ability to read on their own and help to grow their confidence. An endnote includes a Jewish proverb about friendship and expands on the idea that there are natural treasures and beauty around us all the time.

Sherri Mandell won a National Jewish Book Award for *The Blessing of a Broken Heart*. She has also authored two other children's picture books, *The Elephant in the Sukkah* and *The Upside Down Boy and the Israeli Prime Minister*. She is the co-founder of the Koby Mandell Foundation. She lives in Israel.

Tamara Anegon illustrated *Look Out, Leonard!*, *Miriam and the Sasquatch*, and other books for children. She lives in Madrid.



Key Themes:

Friendship, Appreciating Differences, Seeing the Beauty in Everyday Life

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Ages 4–7 years

Use these questions to preface and conclude a reading of this book with children. Encourage them to share their observations as you read the book together, and take time to linger on pages or spreads that generate more discussion.

Before Reading

- The title of the story is “The Best Treasure.” What do you consider a treasure?
- Do you see a treasure on the front cover?
- Tell me about the characters in the story by looking at their facial expressions.
- What do you think this story will be about?

After Reading

- What was the first treasure Gavi found in the story?
- In the beginning of the story, what did Mo think about the treasures that Gavi was collecting?
- How did Mo help Gavi when he was having trouble walking?
- As Gavi was hopping home they heard jingling and jangling. What did the two friends begin to do?
- At the end of the story did Mo find a treasure? Tell about his treasure.
- Do you have a treasure?

Optional: Extension Activity

Draw a picture of someone or something that you consider to be a treasure in your life. Create a picture frame around your drawing using the materials that Gavi found on his walk: ribbon and popsicle sticks.

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Character Cut Outs





