

Teacher's Guide

Conrad Saves Pinger Park

By Carvin Winans

Illustrated by Leslie Harrington

Published by Marimba Books



Book Description:

Eight-year-old Conrad loves Pinger Park. He knows it's a special place. It's where he and his friends play. It's where colorful fish swim and where pretty flowers grow. It's where people who live in the city go to enjoy the outdoors. The park is even where Conrad lost his first tooth. Then, one day the mayor of the city announces plans to have the park replaced with apartment buildings. Conrad knows he has to act fast. But what can he do to save Pinger Park? You can be sure that a creative and resourceful Conrad will find an answer. Also featured in the back of *Conrad Saves Pinger Park* are Green tips to help youngsters play a role in helping to save the planet. This is the first picture book written by Carvin Winans of the talented Gospel group, The Winans.

Target Ages: 4-8

Themes: environment, friendship, problem solving, community, activism

Pre-Reading Questions:

Look at the cover. What do you think the book is about?

What memories do you have of playing in parks? Do you have a favorite park? What made it special?

Why is it important to keep parks clean? How can you do your part?

Discussion Questions:

What do the children like best about Pinger Park?

What do Conrad's friends like about him?

What do Conrad and his friends do to show their pride in Pinger Park?

Why does the mayor say Pinger Park has to be torn down?

How does that news make Conrad and his friends feel?

What does Conrad decide to do?

What does Conrad share in his letter to the mayor?

Who is he writing his letter for?

What reaction does Conrad's letter bring?

Why does the mayor change his mind about tearing down Pinger Park?

How does that make the children feel?

WRITING/LANGUAGE ARTS

Make a list of ways you can create a positive change in your community.

Write a story using a park as the setting.

Write a story in which your main character identifies a problem and finds a solution

Conrad loves his friends. Write about what friendship means to you.

Conrad Saves Pinger Park is a rhyming story that uses both perfect rhyme and near rhyme. Read through the book and say the rhyming words. Which ones rhyme perfectly? Which ones have similar sounds?

ART

Explore the illustrations in the book. Which one is your favorite? Why?

Think about your favorite park memory. Draw a picture and include lots of details. Then, share the picture and the memory with the class.

Collect leaves and make rubbings on paper.

ENVIRONMENT

Conrad and his friends planted a tree in Pinger Park. Plant a flower or vegetable seed in a cup. Nurture it and watch it grow.

Have a TV turn-off week. Use that time to explore your backyard or a nearby park with your parent(s). Keep a field journal that shares what you find.

Read the "green tips" in the back of the book. Do you do any of these things at home or at school? Can you think of any other ways you can be more environmentally friendly?

About the Author

Carvin Winans is a singer and Grammy award-winning songwriter. Following in the footsteps of his parents, he began performing at the age of four and gained fame as a member of the Gospel group, The Winans. The father of six is now turning his lifelong gift for writing to children's books. *Conrad Saves Pinger Park* is his first book for children.

About the Illustrator

Leslie Harrington says her work as an artist is best described by the phrase "draw with a pencil, paint with a mouse." After earning an BFA in Illustration from The Columbus College of Art & Design, she worked for several years as a background painter in the children's video game industry. Now a full time illustrator, she uses pencil and PhotoShop to create the vibrant illustrations that have been published in Highlights Magazine and several educational books. *Conrad Saves Pinger Park* is her first published picture book.



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