

'A Squash and a Squeeze' by Julia Donaldson and Alex Scheffler

Ages 5-7

Published by: Macmillan

Synopsis and reasons for selection:

"Wise old man, wont you help me, please?"

A little old lady sits grumbling and grouching in her house. It's too small and tiny, she moans. She begs the wise old man to help her. He encourages to bring in all her animals, including a cow and a very hungry pig. Mayhem soon ensues and the poor lady's house seems even more cramped and titchy than before! But the wise old man has a plan to help the little old lady appreciate what she has.

A delightfully funny rhyming story. Children will enjoy the repetition and reading this out loud. The illustrations are colourful and there's plenty to enjoy in this classic story.

The questions in this guide are merely intended as supplementary prompts – allow the children to ask questions, explore and read longer sections of the book independently and initiate discussions. They will be much more engaged and enthused.

Because the novel study guide is to be used to aid discussion between the adult and children, we feel there isn't a necessity for an answer booklet.

The guide provides questions and spaces for the children to record their ideas and answers but is not intended to be used as a test.

As there are many lovely pictures in this book it is important to invite the children to examine them carefully. You could encourage the children to use a magnifying glass or photocopy and enlarge a certain part of an image. Throughout the book, encourage the children to investigate:

- Page layout
- How the illustrations are framed
- The use of colour
- How the text is written – some words are in capitals and some are written at an angle, across the page
- The facial expressions of the characters

Before reading...

R: What is the name of the author? The illustrator?

R: Which characters can you see on the front cover?

P: What do you think the story will be about?

Introduction

E: Can you describe your house to a partner? Can you draw a picture of your house? Do you live in a house, flat, bungalow etc? Where do you live? What is your bedroom like? How many people live in your house?

Double spread 1 and 2

R: What can you see in the little old lady's house?

I: How might the little old lady be feeling?

E: What does the little old lady mean when she says her house is 'a squash and a squeeze'?

V: Find two words that mean the same as 'complain'.

V: Find and copy a word that means the same as 'having lots of knowledge and experience'.

P: What do you think the wise old man will say?

Double spread 3 and 4

R: The wise old man tells the little old lady to take in a fox. True or false?

V: Find and copy a word that means the same as 'strange'.

R: Where does the hen lay an egg?

R: What does the hen knock over?

I: How might the little old lady feel when the hen knocks over the jug?

Double spread 5 and 6

V: How many synonyms for 'small' can you think of?

I: Summarise how the little old lady is feeling in one word.

P: What do you predict the wise old man will suggest next?

Double spread 7 and 8

R: The wise old man tells the little old lady to bring her goat into the house next. True or false?

S: What does the goat do after treading on the egg?

V: Find and copy a word that means the same as 'eat'.

V: Replace the words in **bold** with synonyms: The goat **chewed** the curtains and **nibbled** the table leg.

P: What do you think the little old lady will say?

Double spread 9 and 10

E: Do the hen and the goat get on?

V: Replace the words in **bold** with synonyms: "It was **tiny** for two and its titchy for three!" the **little** old lady **cried**.

V: Which words on these pages rhyme? Can you think of any other rhyming words?

P: What do you predict the wise old man will say next?

Double spread 11 and 12

V: What is a larder?

R: What things can you see in the larder?

E: Why does the author repeat 'again and again'?

E: The pig is greedy. Do you agree? Why? Why not?

I: How might the goat be feeling? Why?

Double spread 13 and 14

V: Find and copy a word that means the same as 'beg'.

V: Can you punctuate this sentence accurately?

My house is a squash and a squeeze, said the little old lady.

I: Why do you think the wise old man keeps getting the little old lady to bring her animals into her house?

P: What do you think the wise old man will do next?

Double spread 15 and 16

R: Which animal comes into the house next?

S: What does the cow do after jumping on the table? What does the cow do before?

V: What is a jig?

I: What might the little old lady be thinking and feeling?

E: Which animal would you rather have in your house? A cow, pig, goat or hen? Why?

Double spread 17 and 18

I: Why is the little old lady 'tearing her hair out'? What does this mean?

V: Which words on these pages rhyme? Can you think of any other rhyming words?

P: What do you predict the wise old man will say now?

Double spread 19 and 20

R: What does the wise old man tell the little old lady to do?

E: Why is the house beginning to feel 'pretty big'?

V: How many synonyms for 'big' can you think of? Make a mind map of words.

I: How do you think the animals feel about being shooed and shoved out of the house?

Double spread 21 to 24

V: Rehearse reading out loud, "*Just look at my house, its enormous now.*" How can you show the little old lady's relief, joy and appreciation?

E: What has the little old lady learnt?

E: What is the moral of the story?

I: How is the little old lady feeling now? How was she feeling at the beginning of the story?

P: Do you think the animals will come back?

E: Does the house get bigger, smaller or stay the same size at the end of the story?

E: Who was your favourite character in the story? Why?

V: Can you write an extra verse for this rhyming story and bring another animal into the house? For example:

"Take in your horse," said the wise old man.

"Take in my horse? What a curious plan."

So she took in her horse who kept chasing the hen,

And snoozing in her bed again and again.

S: Order the events from 1-5. One has been done for you.

	Next the wise old man suggests the little old lady brings a goat into the house. The goat chews the curtains and nibbles the table leg. After that, the little old lady brings in a pig who eats all the food.
	Finally, the old lady shoves all the animals out and realises that her house isn't such a squash and a squeeze after all!
1	There is a little old lady who lives all by herself. She complains that her house is too small.
	The wise old man tells her to bring a cow into the house but the cow jumps onto the table and does a jig!
	A wise old man suggests she take a hen into her house. The hen knocks the jug over.

Writing opportunity: What information can you find out about one of the animals in this book? Where do they live? What do they look like? How big are they? What do you they like to eat? How are they adapted to their environment?

Student Activity Book: A Squash and a Squeeze

Double spread 1 and 2



What can you see in the little old lady's house?



How might the little old lady be feeling?



What does the little old lady mean when she says her house is 'a squash and a squeeze'?



Find two words that mean the same as 'complain'.



Find and copy a word that means the same as 'having lots of knowledge and experience'.

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What do you think the wise old man will say?

Double spread 3 and 4



The wise old man tells the little old lady to take in a fox first. True or false?



Find and copy a word that means the same as 'strange'.



Where does the hen lay an egg?



What does the hen knock over?



How might the little old lady feel when the hen knocks over the jug?



Double spread 5 and 6

How many synonyms for 'small' can you think of?



Summarise how the little old lady is feeling in one word.

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What do you predict the wise old man will suggest next?

Double spread 7 and 8



The wise old man tells the little old lady to bring her goat into the house next. True or false?

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What does the goat do after treading on the egg?



Find and copy a word that means the same as 'eat'.

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Replace the words in **bold** with synonyms: The goat **chewed** the curtains and **nibbled** the table leg.



Which words on these pages rhyme? Can you think of any other rhyming words?



What do you predict the wise old man will say next?



Double spread 11 and 12

What is a larder?



What things can you see in the larder?



Why does the author repeat 'again and again'?



The pig is greedy. Do you agree? Why? Why not?



How might the goat be feeling? Why?



Double spread 13 and 14

Find and copy a word that means the same as 'beg'.



Can you punctuate this sentence accurately?

My house is a squash and a squeeze, said the little old lady.



Why do you think the wise old man keeps getting the little old lady to bring her animals into her house?



What do you think the wise old man will do next?



Double spread 15 and 16

Which animal comes into the house next?



What does the cow do after jumping on the table? What does the cow do before?



What is a jig?



What might the little old lady be thinking and feeling?



Which animal would you rather have in your house? A cow, pig, goat or hen? Why?

Double spread 17 and 18



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Double spread 19 and 20



What does the wise old man tell the little old lady to do?



Why is the house beginning to feel 'pretty big'?



How do you think the animals feel about being shooed and shoved out of the house?



Double spread 21 to 24

What has the little old lady learnt?



What is the moral of the story?



How is the little old lady feeling now? How was she feeling at the beginning of the story?



Do you think the animals will come back? Yes, no or maybe?

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Does the house get bigger, smaller or stay the same size at the end of the story?



Who was your favourite character in the story? Why?



Order the events from 1-5. One has been done for you.

	Next the wise old man suggests the little old lady brings a goat into the house. The goat chews the curtains and nibbles the table leg. After that, the little old lady brings in a pig who eats all the food.
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