

A Choose to Read Ohio Toolkit

Use this toolkit to plan library programs as well as activities for the daycare, classroom, or family.

Meet Ohio illustrator David Catrow and Hudson Valley New York author Karen Kaufman Orloff.

Read, write, sing, and play together with engaging extensions inspired by the adventures of Alex and his siblings and grandparents.

Explore fun activities that align with Ohio's Learning Standards for kindergarten through grade 3.

I Wanna Go Home

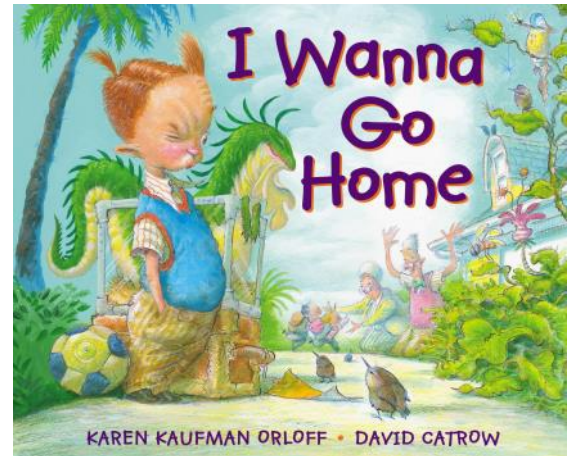
By David Catrow (illustrator) and Karen Kaufman Orloff (author)



About the Book

Alex is not happy about being sent to his grandparents' retirement community while his parents go on a fabulous vacation. What could be worse than tagging along to Grandma's boring bridge game or enduring the sight of Grandpa's dentures?

But as the week goes on, Alex's desperate emails to his parents turn into stories about ice cream before dinner and stickball with Grandpa. Before he knows it, Alex has made a surprising discovery: grandparents are way cooler than he thought!



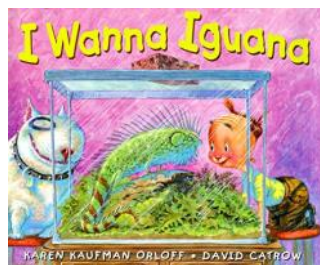
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G. P. Putnam's Sons/Penguin Group (USA), 2014.
ISBN 9780399254079. Ages 5-8. 32 pages.

Leveled Reading: AR Points 0.5. ATOS Book Level 3.3. AD610L Lexile

penguin.com/book/i-wanna-go-home-by-karen-kaufman-orloff-illustrated-by-david-catrow/9780399254079

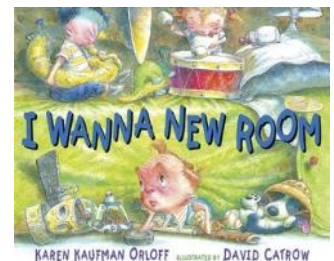
Available as an ebook through the Ohio Digital Library: ohiodigitallibrary.com



I Wanna Go Home is the third in the *I Wanna* series of books about Alex, his siblings, and his fun-loving family and pets. In each new situation, Alex tries to convince his parents to let him have what he wants. Through back-and-forth letters, each of them tries to persuade the other to their point of view.

Learn more about the *I Wanna* books, plus lesson plans, puzzles and coloring pages, and more:

iwannabooks.com.





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About the Illustrator

Since he was a child, David Catrow loved to draw, and always kept paper and a pencil with him. He has written or illustrated more than seventy books, and has been honored twice by the *New York Times* with the Best Illustrated Book of the Year award. In addition to the *I Wanna* books, he is the illustrator of ***Stand Tall, Molly Lou Melon*** and ***Have Fun, Molly Lou Melon*** by Patty Lovell, ***Dozens of Cousins*** by Shutta Crum, ***I Like Myself!*** and ***Where's My T-R-U-C-K?*** by Karen Beaumont, and several collections of silly-dilly songs by Alan Katz. Books he has written and illustrated include the ***Max Spaniel*** series of easy readers, ***We the Kids: the Preamble to the Constitution***, and ***Fun in the Sun***. He also did visual development for the films ***Horton Hears a Who*** and ***Despicable Me***. He lives in Springfield, Ohio with his wife, Deborah.

Illustrator Resources

David Catrow's official website

catrow.com

Artist profile and interview on Illustration Ltd agency website

www.illustrationweb.us/PortfolioScrapbook.aspx?artist_id=3589

Interview, and studio photo tour, with author and artist Andrea Skyberg

andreaskyberg.com/david-catrows-studio-tour/

For school and library visits:

Contact PJ Crowley at pjcrowley16@yahoo.com.

Learn and Have Fun!

*Ideas for extending the experience of reading and sharing **I Wanna Go Home**.*

“Did you know that when you go square dancing, you actually spin in circles? I spun Annie around so much, she flew off my arm!”

- Alex's grandfather reads Beatrix Potter's Peter Rabbit stories aloud. Invite children to name or tell stories from other "really old books" told by parents or grandparents. Share one of your favorite childhood stories or an award-winning picture book from an earlier decade, such as ***Millions of Cats*** by Wanda Gág (1928) or ***The Moon Jumpers*** by Janice May Udry and Maurice Sendak (1959).
- The end papers of the book show all the things that Alex packs for his trip. Invite children to name these items and discuss why Alex needed them. What would his sister and brother pack in their suitcases? What could Alex bring back home with him to remember his time in Florida? Ask the children what they would take for a visit away from home.
- This book is written as messages between Alex and his parents. Ask children to name some other people who could be sharing news. What would Alex write to his friend Stinky? What would Ethan (his brother) and Annie (his sister) write about this visit? What messages could his grandparents send about Alex and Iggy?
- Watch this video from the *New York Post* to see that stickball is still a popular sport in some city streets: youtu.be/xVfndkpbyeg

About the Author

Karen Kaufman Orloff is the author of nine books for children, including the popular *I Wanna* books, used extensively throughout schools for persuasive writing (*I Wanna Iguana*, *I Wanna New Room*, *I Wanna Go Home*). Her other books include *Miles of Smiles*, *Talk*, *Oscar*, *Please*, *If Mom Had Three Arms*, (Sterling Publishing) and three *Nightlight Detective* interactive books from Peter Pauper Press.

Her tenth picture book, *Goodnight Little Bot*, will be out from Sterling Publishing in 2017. She enjoys visiting schools, writes a column for *The Poughkeepsie Journal*, and divides her time between Dutchess County, New York, and southeast Pennsylvania. She can be reached at orloff@bestweb.net.



Photograph and biographical information provided by the author; used with permission.

Author Resources

Karen Kaufman Orloff's official website

karenkaufmanorloff.com

Discover more about the *I Wanna* books

iwannabooks.com

Gayle C. Krause interviews the author (and Alex!) at The Storyteller's Scroll

thestorytellersscroll.blogspot.com/2014/09/another-interview-with-picture-book.html

For school and library visits:

karenkaufmanorloff.com/for-teachers.html

- Alex uses descriptive words to sign his messages. How do these words reveal his attitude on different days of his visit? Help children write their own lists of words to describe themselves and their favorite activities.
- Alex and his family have fun painting all over the kitchen and each other. Homemade, washable finger paints can be cooked up easily with water and a few simple ingredients such as flour, corn starch, salt, and tempera paint powder or food coloring. Many basic recipes can be found in craft books at the library (find your local Ohio public library: oplin.org/fal) or online. Here is a recipe from Martha Stewart: marthastewart.com/271805/finger-paints.
- Enjoy the classic ABC memory game *I Packed My Suitcase* (1st player: "I packed my suitcase with an apple." 2nd player: "I packed my suitcase with an apple and a book." Each player repeats the list and adds a new item). A prompt for this book could be "Alex went to Florida, where he found . . ." Be sure to use the pictures to help build the list — the sillier, the better!
- If you don't have materials or time to play a full round of bingo, consider displaying or projecting an oversized bingo card on the wall and describe how the game is played. Place large circles of colored paper over the numbers to show winning line patterns, and invite children to make up their own verses as they sing and clap to this familiar tune:

B - I - N - G - O

*Listen for our numbers now,
'cause bingo is our game-o.
B - I - N - G - O (3 times),
'cause bingo is our game-o.*

*Mark our numbers, row by row,
'cause bingo is our game-o.
B - I - N - G - O (3 times),
'cause bingo is our game-o.*

*Look! A line is almost done,
'cause bingo is our game-o.
B - I - N - G - O (3 times),
'cause bingo is our game-o.*

*Sing out louder when you've won,
'cause bingo is our game-o.
B - I - N - G - O (3 times),
'cause bingo is our game-o.*

Tie It In!

Using this book with Ohio's Learning Standards.

Educators: Every CTRO book may be used to support Ohio's English Language Arts reading, writing, and speaking and listening standards. Other Learning Standards also apply. Here are examples of activities using *I Wanna Go Home* that align with Learning Standards for Kindergarten – Grade 3.

Librarians, parents, and others: These activities are also for library programs, family activities, and other projects. Learning Standards define what students should know and be able to do at each grade. For more information, see the Ohio Department of Education website, education.ohio.gov. From the Topics dropdown menu, click on "Ohio's Learning Standards."

These activities are also great for library programs, family time, and playgroups.

Social / Emotional Development

Self – Awareness and Expression of Emotion. Alex uses a wide variety of words to describe his feelings during his visit to his grandparents. Invite children to identify these different words, and to share their own experiences of being bored, nervous, surprised, or suspicious.

Approaches toward Learning

Creativity – Expression of Ideas and Feelings through the Arts. Ohio resident David Catrow created detailed and humorous drawings for *I Wanna Go Home*. Ask children to share their thoughts on the book's artwork. Which illustration does each child like best? Ask the children how the pictures match or add to Alex's notes. For example, what could he say about the clothes at the square dance?

Initiative – Initiative and Curiosity. Even though Alex is bored at first, he soon writes "Sometimes old people really surprise me." What are some of the new experiences that Alex's grandparents share with him during his visit? What does he teach them to do? Invite the children to imagine what Alex and his family might have done during the second week of his visit. Ask them to name and reflect on their own experiences doing challenging activities.

Relationships

Interactions with Adults. Have each child interview an adult family member or other trusted adult about their own pastimes and about the activities described in *I Wanna Go Home*. Which of the activities in the book would they enjoy most? What fun activities do they remember from childhood? What do they like to do for fun now? What do they think they will enjoy doing in 10 or 20 years?

Science

Life Science: Explorations of Living Things. When Alex packs his suitcase, he makes sure to bring food for Iggy the iguana. Find books at your local library to learn about iguanas and how to keep them as pets. Are iguanas native to Ohio or to Florida? What besides food would Iggy need during this vacation? Ask children what they would need to pack if they traveled with their own pets.

Social Studies

Economics: Production and Consumption. When Alex's grandmother wins \$13.52 playing bingo, the family buys a giant ice cream sundae to share. Ask children to think about what they would like to buy with a similar amount of money. What goods or services would they select? Where could they purchase these goods or services?

Geography: Spatial Thinking and Skills. Bora Bora, a popular place for vacations, really is a long way from Florida! Using a world map or globe, or online resources available to students through INFOhio (infohio.org) and to all Ohio residents through Ohio Web Library (ohioweblibrary.org), help children find this South Pacific island. Discuss its relative location to Florida and to your location in Ohio. What are some ways that people in Ohio or Florida could travel to Bora Bora?

Choose to Read Ohio, a project of the State Library of Ohio the Ohioana Library Association, and the Ohio Center for the Book, encourages public libraries, schools, families, and others to build a community of readers and an appreciation of Ohio authors, illustrators, and literature. CTRO is adaptable for use in classrooms, libraries, bookstores, by book discussion groups, families, and other community groups.

Explore Choose to Read Ohio resources & toolkits: library.ohio.gov/ctro.

This toolkit revised November 2016.

STATE  LIBRARY OF OHIO

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(614) 644-6910 • library.ohio.gov