

**Reader's Guide for "Surf Soup: Panda-Roo – The Asian Panda bear and Australian Kangaroo Love Story"**  
**By Donna Kay Lau**

About the Book

"Surf Soup: Panda-Roo" is a heartwarming tale of friendship and love that brings together two unique characters from different worlds—the playful Asian Panda bear and the adventurous Australian Kangaroo. Through their journey, readers will explore themes of acceptance, diversity, and the power of love while engaging with STEM concepts and social-emotional learning.

Discussion Questions

Character Exploration:

What are the defining traits of Panda-Roo? How do their backgrounds influence their personalities and perspectives? How does the friendship between Panda and Roo evolve throughout the story? What key moments signify their growing bond?

Themes of Friendship and Love:

Discuss how the book portrays the concept of friendship. What challenges do Panda and Roo face, and how do they overcome them together?

How does the story illustrate the idea that love can bridge differences? Can you identify specific moments in the story that highlight this theme?

Cultural Diversity:

In what ways does the book celebrate cultural diversity? How do Panda and Roo's respective backgrounds contribute to their understanding of each other?

Why is it important for children to learn about different cultures through stories?

### STEM Connections:

Identify any scientific concepts introduced in the story. How do Panda and Roo's adventures promote curiosity about nature and the environment?

Discuss the engineering challenges they might face on their adventures. How could they use problem-solving skills to overcome these challenges?

### Social-Emotional Learning:

How does the story promote empathy and understanding between Panda and Roo? Can you identify specific examples of emotional intelligence in their interactions?

What strategies do Panda and Roo use to handle conflicts or misunderstandings? How can we apply these strategies in our own friendships?

### Imagination and Adventure:

How does imagination play a role in the adventures of Panda and Roo? What lessons do they learn from their imaginative experiences?

If you could join Panda and Roo on their next adventure, where would you want to go and why?

### Personal Reflection:

Have you ever had a friendship that was different from your own background? How did it enrich your life?

What qualities do you value most in a friend, and how are those qualities reflected in Panda and Roo's relationship?

### Activities for Readers

### Creative Drawing:

Draw your version of Panda and Roo on their next adventure. What kind of environment do they explore, and what new friends do they meet?

### STEM Discovery:

Research the habitats of the Asian Panda and Australian Kangaroo. Create a fact sheet to share what you learn about their environments, diet, and behavior.

### Social-Emotional Role Play:

In pairs or small groups, role-play different scenarios from the book that involve friendship and conflict resolution.

Discuss how the characters can support each other.

Story Extension:

Write a short story or poem about a friendship that overcomes obstacles. Use Panda and Roo as inspiration for your characters.

Discussion Circle:

Organize a book club meeting to discuss the themes of friendship, love, STEM, and social-emotional learning in the story. Share personal experiences related to these themes.

Final Thoughts

"Surf Soup: Panda-Roo" is not just a tale of adventure; it's a celebration of the bonds that connect us all, regardless of our differences. By incorporating STEM concepts and social-emotional learning, readers are encouraged to reflect on their friendships, cultivate empathy, and embrace curiosity about the world around them.