

Bink & Gollie: Two Voices, One Friendship

Two friends disagree about socks, fish, games, height, independence, and attention - yet their contrasting voices are exactly what make the series work.

6 core books	Grades 1-3	Catalogue reviewed
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You are the teacher.

Use these as an author/series study, a read-aloud sequence, or a source of book-to-book comparisons. Change the order when your students need a different entry point.

Teaching purpose

Students compare how Bink and Gollie's contrasting personalities and dialogue create both conflict and affection. The sequence focuses on voice, perspective, disagreement, compromise, and repair across several short episodes.

Recommended grade band

Grades 1-3

The Big Question

How can two people stay close without becoming the same?

Source and confidence boundary

Titles, book IDs, authors, formats, and listed reading levels were checked against the updated TumbleBookLibrary Book_List.xlsx. Grade-band recommendations are instructional recommendations for the set, not catalogue claims about every individual title.

Before reading

Make two character columns. After each episode, record what Bink wants, what Gollie wants, what each says, and what happens to the friendship.

Core reading sequence

HEAR TWO
VOICES

Bink and Gollie: Don't You Need a New Pair of Socks?

Book ID 6899 · Kate DiCamillo & Alison McGhee · Story Book · Reading level 2.5

Why it belongs: A disagreement about taste makes the friends' contrasting personalities immediately audible in dialogue.

Unique contribution: It is a clean entry for showing that character voice can be built from word choice and response.

Ask Which line could only belong to Bink, and which could only belong to Gollie?

COMPETE
FOR
ATTENTION

Bink and Gollie: Give a Fish a Home

Book ID 6903 · Kate DiCamillo & Alison McGhee · Story Book · Reading level 2.5

Why it belongs: A new attachment changes the balance between the friends and creates a problem of attention and loyalty.

Unique contribution: It shows that conflict can come from a third presence, not only direct disagreement.

Ask What changes when one friend gives attention to something the other does not value?

Bink and Gollie: P.S. I'll Be Back Soon

Book ID 6900 · Kate DiCamillo & Alison McGhee · Story Book · Reading level 2.5

Why it belongs: Gollie imagines herself climbing the Andes while Bink repeatedly interrupts, turning the episode into a comic negotiation over imagination, attention, and personal space.

Unique contribution: It expands the friendship study from direct disagreement to boundaries: one friend wants uninterrupted imaginative space while the other keeps seeking connection.

Ask How do Bink and Gollie handle wanting different amounts of togetherness at the same moment?

Bink and Gollie, Two for One: Whack-A-Duck

Book ID 6949 · Kate DiCamillo & Alison McGhee · Story Book · Reading level 2.2

Why it belongs: A game or challenge creates a situation in which competition, confidence, and reaction reveal both characters.

Unique contribution: It makes action - not only dialogue - a source of characterization.

Ask What does the game reveal about each friend that conversation alone might not?

Bink and Gollie, Two for One: Without Question

Book ID 6947 · Kate DiCamillo & Alison McGhee · Story Book · Reading level 2.2

Why it belongs: At the state fair, a fortune-teller episode turns uncertainty about the future into a question about what the two friends can count on.

Unique contribution: It gives the friendship a future-facing test and resolves uncertainty with reassurance that their connection will continue.

Ask What does the fortune-teller episode suggest Bink and Gollie can be certain about?

Bink and Gollie, Best Friends Forever: Kudos!

Book ID 6941 · Kate DiCamillo & Alison McGhee · Story Book · Reading level 2.7

Why it belongs: Bink and Gollie try to earn a place in a record book by finding something extraordinary to collect.

Unique contribution: It turns ambition and comparison into a series-level test of what each friend values and how they respond when being 'the best' is the goal.

Ask What does the record-book challenge reveal about what each friend thinks is worth celebrating?

Optional extensions

Bink and Gollie, Two for One: You're Special, Aren't You?

Book ID 6951 · Kate DiCamillo & Alison McGhee

Why optional: A useful extension for identity, affirmation, and how friends respond to each other's self-image.

Bink and Gollie, Best Friends Forever: Why Should You Be Shorter than Your Friends?

Book ID 6943 · Kate DiCamillo & Alison McGhee

Why optional: A strong extension for comparison, difference, and the absurd logic friends sometimes use with each other.

Selection note

The core is limited to six titles so every book has a distinct job. The point of an author/series set is not to catalogue everything held; it is to make recurring craft, structure, or instructional design visible.

Across-the-set teaching moves

1. Read dialogue with distinct voices and justify the performance from the words.
2. Track what each friend wants before deciding who is 'right.'
3. Notice how conflict ends: persuasion, compromise, acceptance, distraction, or repair.
4. Compare episodes where the disagreement is direct with episodes involving a game, object, or third interest.
5. Use repeated reading to identify series expectations about each character.

Book-to-book connections

New Pair of Socks + Give a Fish a Home

Compare disagreement over taste with conflict over attention.

P.S. I'll Be Back Soon + Whack-A-Duck

Compare friendship under separation with friendship during shared action.

Without Question + Kudos!

Compare an individual disagreement with a later episode read through accumulated series knowledge.

Culminating discussion

Choose three episodes and explain how Bink and Gollie remain recognizably different while the friendship continues.

Teacher look-fors

- Uses dialogue or action as evidence of character voice.
- Names both characters' wants or perspectives.
- Explains repair without assuming agreement is always necessary.
- Recognizes recurring series patterns while allowing each episode its own problem.

Existing-set duplication check

Closest existing Text Set: Kindness and friendship

What overlaps: Both examine relationships, disagreement, care, and repair.

Why this set is genuinely different: The broader friendship set compares many kinds of relationships; this series set gives students repeated evidence from the same two characters, making voice, perspective, and continuity much easier to track.

Production note

Author and series sets can legitimately reuse a title that appears in another Text Set when the instructional job is different. Reuse should be explicit and purposeful rather than accidental.