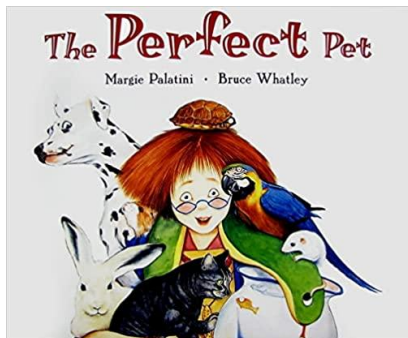




These are examples of children's picture books, many with STEAM (Science / Technology / Engineering / Art and Math) themes, that we have use during STEM4Learning workshops as examples for building student engagement through read-alouds. Many associated activities and teaching units are shared in Picture Perfect STEM books by Emily Morgan and Karen Ansberry published by the National Science Teachers Association.



The Perfect Pet by Margie Palatini

[Amazon purchase page:](#)

Summary: a young girl really wants a pet and sets about convincing her parents that she is ready and able to have one. In the end, she does succeed but the perfect pet selection is a bit surprising. This book is a great conversation starter book giving students the opportunity to both share their ideas about pets and also explore the idea of arguing from evidence, a great STEM skill.

Link to Youtube Read-aloud Version -

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=loIZEIKH7f8>

Link to .pdf slides of book page by page

- [The Perfect Pet. pdf](#)

Some related activity ideas

- This is a pretty simple story that provides authentic opportunities for students to share their own ideas about pets they have or pets that they want. The idea can expand to talk about what living things need to stay alive and how they would provide that for an animal if they were given the chance - what sort of ecosystem would they provide, temperature, food, environment, etc. Many interesting ideas to explore in thinking about insects as pets and how they might be different from other more traditional pets.