In this story, a crocodile named Ernst wants to collect things just like his big brother, Sol, does. He thinks that puddles and their reflections are beautiful, so he decides to start a puddle collection. Then he mixes puddle water with watercolors and paints the things reflected in his pail. As you read or listen to the story with your child, pay attention to how Ernst decides what to collect.

**Story Guide**

_The Puddle Pail_ by Elisa Kleven

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**LET’S READ TOGETHER**

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**LET’S TALK ABOUT NEW WORDS**

Here are some words to talk about as you read or listen to _The Puddle Pail_:

- **collect**, to gather and save a group of things that are alike in some way
- **diamonds**, shapes with four equal sides
- **ordinary**, not special; plain
- **striped**, having lines or bands of color
- **annoyed**, to feel angry about something
- **fulfilled**, feeling happy and satisfied

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**LET’S PLAY**

_Imagine Things in the Clouds_

In the story, Ernst looks at the clouds and thinks of things the shapes remind him of. Go outside or look at the sky through a big window to see the clouds. Tell your child that the shape of the clouds might remind us of something, like an animal, a toy, or even a face. Different people can have different ideas about what a cloud looks like. Point to a cloud and offer some ideas of what you think the cloud looks like. Then, ask your child to think about what they see in the clouds. Ask questions to explore their ideas, like “Tell me more about the dragon you see. Is that fire coming out of the dragon’s mouth?” If your child is interested, encourage them to draw a picture of the clouds. Support them with writing words on their cloud picture to describe what they imagined.