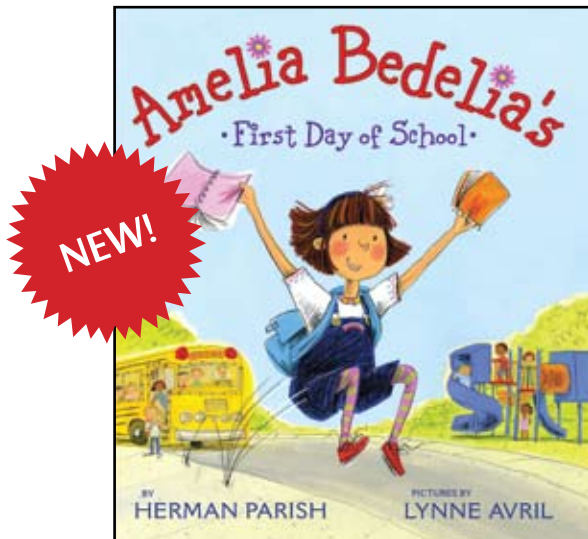


# The World of *Amelia Bedelia*

## A Note from Herman Parish



“Why does Amelia Bedelia take everything literally—did she always act like that?” Kids ask me this question whenever I visit schools. I explain that that’s just how Amelia Bedelia sees the world. She has always been like that and always will be.

However, it got me thinking: How would Amelia Bedelia have gotten along when she was growing up? A young Amelia Bedelia would be prone to all kinds of mix-ups. And what better catalyst than her first day of school?

First days can be very scary. That’s why *Amelia Bedelia’s First Day of School* is filled not only with misunderstandings but also with sympathetic teachers and the notion that this is the beginning of a fun and exciting adventure.

## Classroom Activities

### YOUR FIRST DAY

After reading *Amelia Bedelia’s First Day of School* to your group, facilitate a conversation about how Amelia Bedelia’s first day was similar to and different from your students’ first day this year. How does Amelia Bedelia feel about school? How did your students feel about school on their first day, and how do they feel about it now?

### GETTING TO KNOW YOU

Amelia Bedelia’s class engages in activities that let them express themselves and get to know each other. You might also provide clay for your students to use, the way Miss Edwards does in the book. Ask them to sculpt their favorite animals. Finish the activity by having partners talk with each other about their animals and why they like them.

### WHAT’S IN A NAME?

Illustrator Lynne Avril displays the double meanings of the names of many children in Amelia Bedelia’s class when Miss Edwards calls the roll. Using the library, the Internet, and children’s families as resources, help each child find the meaning of his or her name. Have students create pictures that show themselves and the meaning of their names. Display the pictures in the classroom or hallway as a beginning-of-the-year student showcase.

### AMELIA BEDELIA’S SECOND DAY OF SCHOOL

In small groups, have students create a story about Amelia Bedelia’s *second* day of school. What might she mix up during the assembly? She’s already gotten confused during art, music, and recess, as well as on the bus, in the library, and in the cafeteria. What funny situations might arise during other parts of the school day, such as in math or science class? Encourage students to illustrate their stories.

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