



# #10078 OFFICER BUCKLE AND GLORIA

WESTON WOODS STUDIOS, 1997  
Grade Level: K-2  
12 mins.

## DESCRIPTION

Officer Buckle's annual presentation of safety tips is boring and mostly ignored until the Napville police department buys a police dog named Gloria. Gloria has her own way of demonstrating safety tips, and she and Officer Buckle decide they make a very effective team. Animated version of the Caldecott Medal-winning book by Peggy Rathmann. Narrated by John Lithgow.



## ACADEMIC STANDARDS

### Subject Area: Health

- Standard: Knows essential concepts and practices concerning injury prevention and safety
  - ◆ Benchmark: Knows basic fire, traffic, water, and recreation safety practices (See INSTRUCTIONAL GOALS 1.)
  - ◆ Benchmark: Knows precautions that should be taken in special conditions (e.g., bad weather, Halloween, darkness, staying home alone, being approached by strangers, avoiding conflicts) (See INSTRUCTIONAL GOALS 1.)
- Standard: Knows how to maintain mental and emotional health
  - ◆ Benchmark: Knows appropriate ways to build and maintain positive relationships with peers, parents, and other adults (e.g., interpersonal communication) (See INSTRUCTIONAL GOALS 2.)

### Subject Area: Language Arts–Reading

- Standard: Uses reading skills and strategies to understand and interpret a variety of literary texts
  - ◆ Benchmark: Uses reading skills and strategies to understand a variety of familiar literary passages and texts (e.g., fairy tales, folktales, fiction, nonfiction, legends, fables, myths, poems, nursery rhymes, picture books, predictable books) (See INSTRUCTIONAL GOALS 3.)
  - ◆ Benchmark: Makes simple inferences regarding the order of events and possible outcomes (See INSTRUCTIONAL GOALS 3.)

## INSTRUCTIONAL GOALS

1. To learn about safety.
2. To explore the meaning of friendship.
3. To promote the reading of children's literature.

## VOCABULARY

- |                  |                        |
|------------------|------------------------|
| 1. accident      | 7. obey                |
| 2. audience      | 8. safety tip          |
| 3. buddy         | 9. "stick with"        |
| 4. "eyes popped" | 10. star (of the show) |
| 5. helmet        | 11. swivel chair       |
| 6. officer       | 12. thumbtack          |

## BEFORE SHOWING

1. Read the book *Officer Buckle and Gloria* by Peggy Rathmann. Point out that this book won the Caldecott Award, and discuss why it may have won that award.
2. Role-play giving safety speeches to other students. Discuss which safety tips are the most important and why.
3. Discuss how it feels to do fun things with other people. Imagine doing those things alone. Discuss how it would feel to be alone.

## DURING SHOWING

1. View the video more than once, with one showing uninterrupted.
2. Pause during the scene in the college auditorium where Officer Buckle and Gloria are being videotaped for the news. Predict what will happen?
3. Pause when the news comes on Officer Buckle's TV at home. Why does Gloria's expression change?

## AFTER SHOWING

### Discussion Items and Questions

1. Why did Officer Buckle visit schools?
2. Describe how the students responded to Officer Buckle's safety speech before he brought Gloria along. Why did they act this way? Why were there accidents?
3. What did Officer Buckle train Gloria to do?
4. Describe how the students responded to Officer Buckle's safety speech when he brought Gloria along. Why did they pay attention? Did they have accidents?
5. What was in the enormous envelope that Officer Buckle got in the mail? Why did he think the students had used their imaginations? Which letter was his favorite?
6. Why was Officer Buckle's phone so busy the day after his first speech with Gloria?

7. How many schools did Officer Buckle and Gloria give safety speeches to? How did all of the children respond?
8. What did Officer Buckle and Gloria do after each school visit? How did Officer Buckle feel?
9. What happened when Officer Buckle and Gloria gave their safety speech at the college auditorium?
10. Describe what happened when Officer Buckle saw his presentation on the TV news. How did he feel? Why? What was Gloria's response?
11. Why did Officer Buckle quit giving speeches? What happened when Gloria went to a school to give a speech alone?
12. Describe the school's biggest accident ever. How did Officer Buckle find out about the accident? How did the children's letters make Officer Buckle feel?
13. Why is it important to "stick with your buddy"?
14. How did Officer Buckle feel at the end of the story? What lesson did Officer Buckle learn?

### **Applications and Activities**

1. Brainstorm a list of common safety rules. Include Officer Buckle's tips. Categorize the rules by location (playground, school, kitchen, street, etc.).
2. Make safety rule posters or write a safety rule book. Share the posters by placing them around the school or share the safety books with younger students.
3. Dramatize safety tips by showing what happens when people don't follow rules and when they do follow rules. Videotape the dramas or present them to younger students.
4. Write safety tips on paper stars. Present the stars to students when they follow those specific rules.
5. Invite a police officer to present safety information to the class or the school. Discuss appropriate audience behavior before the presentation.
6. Write a letter to a friend. Describe your favorite activities with them. Tell them why their friendship is important.
7. Discuss safety symbols and signs, including the poison symbol, a crosswalk sign, a stop sign, a no smoking sign, etc. Discuss the meaning behind each one.
  - a. Invent and draw new safety symbols.
  - b. Share the symbols, and talk about the meaning of each one.
8. Discuss what police dogs really do. Compare that to what Gloria did in the story. Invite a K-9 unit to visit the school and demonstrate the dog's skills and uses.
9. Research other kinds of working dogs. Share the information with the class.

### **SUMMARY**

Officer Buckle travels from school to school, giving children tips and advice on how to keep safe. The trouble with Officer Buckle's speeches is that they are just too boring! When Gloria, the police dog, accompanies him to school, things change, especially when Gloria gives a solo performance!

## CMP RELATED RESOURCES

- [One Zillion Valentines #10079](#)
- [Playground Fun #3396](#)
- [Bicycle Safety: The Beginning Years \(Second Edition\) #3009](#)
- [Safety For Children: Pedestrian Safety #3280](#)
- [Let's Be Friends #3265](#)

## World Wide Web

The following Web sites complement the contents of this guide; they were selected by professionals who have experience in teaching deaf and hard of hearing students. Every effort was made to select accurate, educationally relevant, and "kid safe" sites. However, teachers should preview them before use. The U.S. Department of Education, the National Association of the Deaf, and the Captioned Media Program do not endorse the sites and are not responsible for their content.

### • SAFETY CITY

<http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov/kids/>

This comprehensive safety Web site from the National Highway and Traffic Safety Administration is written for elementary age students and covers bike equipment and safety, pedestrian safety, auto safety, and bus safety. The "School" section includes a safety challenge quiz and a teacher's area with lesson plans, games, and coloring pages. This site also has letters, statistics, art, and a video.

### • SAFETY BEAR'S COLORING

<http://www.dps.state.ak.us/AST/safetybear/instruct.asp>

This site from the Alaska Department of Public Safety provides 15 different safety coloring pictures with specific tips on each page. Includes safety rules for use of ATVs, boats, guns, fire, seat belts, school buses, medicine cabinets, and more.

### • OFFICER BUCKLE AND GLORIA

[http://www.libsci.sc.edu/miller/Officer\\_Buckle.htm](http://www.libsci.sc.edu/miller/Officer_Buckle.htm)

This Web page from the University of South Carolina provides information about the book, Web resources including safety sites, other books on similar topics, activities for the book, and links to lesson plans.

### • PEGGY RATHMANN OFFICIAL SITE

<http://www.peggyrathmann.com>

This site contains biographical information about the author and additional information about the book *Officer Buckle and Gloria*. Also has book related items for sale.