**Duck at the Door**
Author and Illustrator: Jackie Urbanovic

- **Summary:** This children’s book is about a duck named Max who knocks on a door in the middle of a cold winter night. Irene, the owner of the house, welcomes Max into her home and allows him to spend winter there with her and the rest of her pets. At first Max has trouble adapting to his new living conditions, but eventually learns how to cook, answer the phone, read, and work the remote control. The other animals in the house become irritated with Max because he begins to act as if he is the only animal in the house. As summer sets in, the animals are ready for Max to return to his flock; however, they soon realize they all miss Max. Winter rolls around, and once again Max knocks on Irene’s front door, to all the animals’ delight, but this time he brings his flock to experience winter.


- **Author and Illustrator Information:** [http://www.jackieurbanovic.com/](http://www.jackieurbanovic.com/)

- **Discussion Questions:**
  - Why are pets important members of many families?
  - After all their complaining, why did the other animals miss Max?
  - How do you think the animals will feel about Max’s family coming to live at their house?

- **Curricular Activities**
  - Reading/oral language – Read the story and have students talk in partners about the plot and what they thought about the book.
  - Writing –
    - Write about a favorite pet.
    - Have students write a story about how they handle situations that may annoy them.
  - Math/Technology – Make a chart of how many students have a pet and what pet(s) they have. Have students graph the results recorded on the table. Use the graph to make ratios (cats, dogs, etc.).
  - Science – Learn about why ducks go south for the winter and how they know where to go.
  - Social Studies – Discuss why animals have been important throughout history.
  - Art –
    - Color coloring pages found on Jackie Urbanovic’s website
    - Use watercolor, like Jackie Urbanovic, to create a picture of your pet or a duck
  - Drama – Put on a puppet show or play based off the book. Students can create their own skits about animals.
  - Music – Create a jingle about ducks or a favorite animal.
  - Cooking/food – Make fruit or vegetable kebobs like Max made in the book.
• Related Books:
  o *Dogku* – Andrew Clements, illustrated by Tim Bowers
  o *Make Way for Ducklings* – Robert McCloskey
  o *A House for Wanda Wood Duck* – Patricia Barnes-Svarney, illustrated by Dominic Catalano
  o *Some Ducks* – Mark Shulman, illustrated by Vincent Nguyen and Joe Bartos

• Other titles by Urbanovic:
  o **Written and illustrated by Urbanovic:**
    ▪ *Duck and Cover*
    ▪ *Duck Soup*
    ▪ *Sitting Duck*
    ▪ *Ducks in a Row* – (also illustrated by: Joe Mathieu)
  o **Written by Urbanovic:**
    ▪ *Bite Size Geography 150 Facts You Won't Believe* - Hugh Westrup, Jackie Urbanovic
    ▪ *Video Games* - Arlene Erlbach, Jackie Urbanovic
    ▪ *Gifted Kids Speak Out Hundreds of Kids Ages 6-13 Talk About School Friends Their Families and the Future* - James R. Delisle, Pamela Espeland, Jackie Urbanovic
    ▪ *Only in Dreams/Book and Audio Cassette* - Emmett Davis and Jackie Urbanovic
    ▪ *The Best Trade of All* - Nina Bourque and Jackie Urbanovic
  o **Illustrated by Urbanovic:**
    ▪ *Glamsters* - Elizabeth Cody Kimmel
    ▪ *Spaghetti Eddie* - Ryan Sanangelo
    ▪ *Grandma Lena’s Big Ol’Turnip* - Denia Hester
    ▪ *Horace the Horrible* - Jackie French Koller
    ▪ *The Ten Best Things About My Dad* - Christine Loomis
    ▪ *The Bully Blockers Club* – Teresa Bateman
    ▪ *Do the Hokey Pokey* - Alison McDonough
    ▪ *Do Your Ears Hang Low?* – Rachel Lisberg
    ▪ *Don’t Squeal Unless It’s a BIG Deal: A Tale of Tattletales* - Jeanie Franz Ransom
    ▪ *If Your Hoppy* – April Pulley Sayre
    ▪ *No Sleep for the Sheep!* - Karen Beaumont
    ▪ *Bicycles* - Arlene Erlbach
    ▪ *A Magic Ride in Foozbah-Land* - Jean Betschart
    ▪ *Celebrating Christmas (Learn to Read. Holiday Series)* - Kimberly Roark
    ▪ *My Very Own Birthday: A Book of Cooking and Crafts* - Robin West
  o **Illustrated by Urbanovic and Robert L. Wolfe and Diane Wolfe:**
    ▪ *One-Minute Math Level B Division: Divisors 6 to 9* - Theresa Warnick
    ▪ *How the Chipmunk Got Its Stripes* - Staci Swedeen
- *Get That Mouse Out Now!* - Elizabeth Sengel
- *Mah La’asot/What Should It Do?: A Book of Ethical and Jewish Responses* - Janice Alper, Joel Lurie Grishaver
- *T-Shirts* - Arlene Erbach

**Websites for further study or enrichment:**
- National Geographic’s site provides educational information on ducks. [http://animals.nationalgeographic.com/animals/birds/mallard-duck/](http://animals.nationalgeographic.com/animals/birds/mallard-duck/)
- This website is a kid friendly informational page on ducks [http://www.kiddyhouse.com/Farm/ducks1.html](http://www.kiddyhouse.com/Farm/ducks1.html)
- This site is put on by Animal planet and provides educational facts about ducks. [http://animal.discovery.com/birds/duck/](http://animal.discovery.com/birds/duck/)