



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

# Our Teacher is a Vampire And Other Not True Stories

by Mary Amato



Read Aloud Video

Here is a little background information about our First Chapter Friday title and its creator. Feel free to add your own notes and thoughts in the bottom box.

## What's It About?

Mrs. Penrose has a secret, and Alexander H. Gory, Jr., thinks he knows just what it is. To spread the word, Alexander passes around his notebook, in which he details his proof that their mild-mannered teacher has become a blood-sucking creature of the night. The news spreads like wildfire, and soon the whole class is speculating. Will the librarian be her next victim? Can they protect themselves with garlic necklaces? But when Mrs. Penrose confiscates the notebook, she admits to the class that she does have a secret. She isn't turning into a bat, though—she's going to have a baby. To encourage her students to write, she lets them keep the notebook, which becomes a chronicle of jokes, stories, and—when Mrs. Penrose's baby comes earlier than anyone expected—their fears, frustrations, and hopes for her and her child. Told in the varying voices of an elementary class, with all their unique observations, quirks, and spelling mistakes, *Our Teacher Is a Vampire* is a celebration of collaboration. Through their shared storytelling, Mrs. Penrose's students support one another through difficult times, improve as writers, and become fast friends.

AR Reading Level: 4.1

## Who Wrote It?

When author Mary Amato was your age she had a pet turtle who ran away and three older sisters who tried to convince her that she was a cow. She loved to read, but didn't believe she could become a writer because she thought that all books were written a long time ago and that all the people who wrote them were dead. She wasn't very bright. It took her a long time to become a writer. It still takes her a long time to write each book because she makes a lots of mistakes. The amazing letters she gets from kids about her books encourage her to keep trying. Her favorite color is purple and her favorite food is dark chocolate. She loves very sharp pencils, high-quality black pens, pocket-sized writer's notebooks without lines, and the wondrous energy of children



and teens. She thinks it is hilarious when principals introduce her by saying, 'Today, we get to meet a real, live author!' She is delighted not to be a fake, dead author. That would not be as fun.

Lexile Level: 620

I want to read this book: YES / NO

☆ ☆ WHAT I THINK ☆ ☆

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Use this graphic organizer with the First Chapter Friday videos on YouTube from the Word Nerd.