

Autism Spectrum Disorders:

Reading Amelia Bedelia

Station 1 – minimum of 1 adult, a second is always good
for crowd control

Purpose: to help students understand the difficulties that ASD
people may have in understanding language

Materials: Amelia Bedelia by Peggy Parrish

Set Up: students may sit at a table or on the floor

Procedure: leader will read Amelia Bedelia and discuss the nuances of
colloquial language which ASD people find confusing – e.g.
“dress the chicken”, “put out the lights”

People on the Autism Spectrum often have trouble reading facial
expressions and body language, as well as understanding the complexities
of spoken and written language. Amelia Bedelia is a humorous way to
show students how taking language very literally can cause social
difficulties. The kids often remember reading the book as a younger
child but join in on the humorous aspects. This is a simple way to
give them a ‘first pass’ at understanding the complex issues of autism.

Hot tip: children may ask if Amelia has ASD – no, but maybe the person
who wrote the book knew someone who did