

**3rd Grade Curriculum Guide Book Summary**

**Book title: Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day**

**Author:** Judith Viorst

**Main characters:** Alexander

**Executive summary:** Alexander has a terrible day where everything seems to go wrong.

**Detailed summary**: From the time he woke up in the morning, Alexander was having a bad day, not just a bad day, but a terrible, horrible, no good, very bad day. He woke up with gum in his hair and then tripped over his skateboard. At breakfast his two brothers got cool toys in their cereal boxes. All Alexander got was cereal - no toy!

He felt like he wanted to move to Australia, where he would never have a bad day. In the car pool to school, he was the only one who did not get to sit by the window. At school the teacher didn’t like his picture or his singing or his counting.

His best friend Paul said he wasn’t his best friend anymore, so Alexander wished Paul would sit on a tack and drop his ice cream. That way he wouldn’t be the only one having a terrible, horrible, no good, very bad day!

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At lunch his friends had yummy deserts in their lunches, but Alexander’s Mom forgot to pack a lunch for him. After school he had a dentist appointment and the dentist found a cavity. Then his foot got stuck in the elevator, and he slipped and fell in the mud. At the shoe store, his brothers got cool shoes, but the shoes that Alexander wanted were sold out, so he got plain white ones. And when they went to his Dad’s office, Alexander got in trouble for playing with the copy machine, knocking books over on his Dad’s desk and calling someone on the phone.

His Mom made his least favorite vegetables for dinner and there was nothing good on TV that night. He got soap in his eyes when he took a bath and his Mom made him wear pajamas with trains on them. When he went to bed, his brother took his pillow and his cat slept with his other brother. It really was a terrible, horrible, no good, very bad day! Alexander couldn’t wait for it to be over. His Mom told him some days were like that - all over the world. Tomorrow would be better!

Note: there are no discussion questions in the curriculum guide for this book.