

Reading the Book

Introduction

This overview will help you use the book "Adventures at Walnut Grove; A Lesson about Teasing" in your classroom.

Skill Highlights

This book incorporates many literacy skills into its story line. Included are:

- Increasing phonemic awareness
- Using question words
- Expanding vocabulary
- Focusing on word endings such as -ed, -ing.

Before you Read

Predict: Ask children, what they think the story is about by just looking at the cover? They may notice the animal on the cover with tears coming down his face. Make predictions about why he might be crying.

As you Read

As you read the book, use your voice to emphasize the voices of each character.

After you read

Make character headbands or stick puppets and act out the story with a small group.

Curriculum Connections

Art

Make character masks or headbands and later reenact the story. Or just make Sammy squirrel masks. Notice the watercolors the illustrator used throughout the story, have the children choose their favorite part of the story and create their own watercolor painting of it.

Math

On the last page of the story observe all the animals playing walnut ball, make a graph of all the different types of animals there are. Then turn back to the beginning of the story where all the animals were at "Walnut Grove Resort" and heading down the path to go to the Walnut Ball field, graph the animals on this page and compare which page has more or less of certain animals.

Language Arts

Make connections using events in the story or characters such as:

- Text to text (compare this story to another story).
- Text to self (compare something in the story to self).
- Text to world (compare the story to something in the real world).

Write about your connection to the story that you made. Perhaps write about a time that someone made you feel sad like Sammy or Bucky Beaver. Or a time that you felt bad when someone got teased. Perhaps you remember a time when you were learning how to do something like Bucky was learning to swim and couldn't do it very well.

Sports and Games

Play a game of "walnut ball" but use a ball for the walnut.

Science

Talk with the children about what a walnut is and have one for them to observe, showing them the outside and then reveal the nut inside. Set up an investigative center with various types of nuts that are in shells for them to observe and even break open.