

The Kissing Hand

by Audrey Penn

Gentle flowing text and precious illustrations make this heart-warming story a must-read for all first time school-goers and their parents.



Read

Before:

Introduce the book and tell the children a little bit about it. Follow that with a comment or question that is related to the story such as, *In this story Chester the raccoon goes to school at night because raccoons are nocturnal. Do you know what nocturnal means?* Encourage a discussion so the children can comment, ask questions, and express their feelings. Set the stage for listening by asking an “I wonder” statement based on the cover illustration.

- I wonder if that little raccoon hurt its hand?

During:

Encourage the children to comment on the illustrations, ask questions, and predict what will happen next in the story. Children gain confidence and a sense of achievement through being able to correctly predict how a story will end. Point out “rare words” (e.g., those words that are not commonly used in every day conversation) and help the children relate the meaning in a way that makes sense to them.

Rare Words in *The Kissing Hand*

- forest: large area of land covered in trees and other plants
- nuzzled: to rub something gently with the nose
- gently: having a mild and kind nature
- strange: unfamiliar or unknown
- secret: known by only a few people
- cozy: warm, comfortable, and snug
- palm: the inner surface of the hand
- silky: looking or feeling like silk
- tingled: to feel a sensation of stinging or vibration
- toasty: pleasantly warm
- wrapped: to fold or roll something up into a bundle
- grinned: to smile broadly, usually showing the teeth
- familiar: well known and easily recognized
- scamper: to run quickly or playfully

After:

Discuss the story. Ask questions...

- How did you feel before your first day of school? Were you excited? Scared?
- Were you worried you would miss your parents?
- Have any of you ever been told a secret? Did you keep the secret or share with others?
- How many of you kiss your mom or dad before leaving for school?
- Are there any other occasions where you always kiss your mom or dad? Before bed?
- Have you ever heard of a kissing hand before?
- How do you think Mrs. Raccoon felt when Chester opened her hand and gave her a kiss?



Do

As Different as Night and Day!

Visit Teaching Heart's web site (www.teachingheart.net/kissinghandideas.html) for a Night and Day Activity printable for *The Kissing Hand*. To make it more interactive, cut up the ideas given, as well as more of your own, and invite the students up to place the ideas under the correct category.

Source: teachingheart.net