

# And to Think That We Thought That We'd Never Be Friends

by Mary Ann Hoberman

Poetry Foundation: Children's Poet Laureate, 2008-2010. A heart-warming multi-cultural, rhyming book used to teach children how to be friends, not fighters.



## Read

### Before:

Introduce the book and tell the children a little bit about it. Follow with a comment or question that is related to the story such as, *What is one way you can help stop friends from fighting?* 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 what all those people and animals are doing in that car?

### 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 *And to Think That We Thought That We'd Never Be Friends*

- thwacked: to strike somebody with a flat object
- walloped: to strike somebody with great force
- argument: a disagreement
- instrument: an object that produces music
- tuba: a brass instrument that makes a low-pitched tone
- bassoon: a brass instrument that makes a low-pitched tone
- practiced: to repeat something to get better
- marched: to walk in a formalized pattern
- beg: to ask something with emotion
- whistle: a wind instrument that makes a shrill high-pitched sound
- flute: a wind instrument with a high sound
- trumpet: a brass instrument with a middle to high pitched sound
- bugle: a brass instrument, like a small trumpet, without the valves
- wailing: make a loud, long cry
- disturbing: upset someone or something
- trembled: shake slightly but uncontrollably
- earsplitting: extremely loud or shrill sounds
- deafening: make somebody unable to hear
- kettles: same as a teapot, metal pot
- splendid: magnificent, radiant or excellent
- cacophony: unpleasant noise
- soothes: calm somebody down, ease pain
- disbanded: split up

## After:

Discuss the story. Ask questions...

- Why are the siblings fighting?
- Why did they stop fighting?
- What did all the siblings do after they became friends?
- What made the dad turn off the television? What did they do instead?
- Who moved in next door?
- When did the new neighbors play their instruments?
- What kind of instruments did they play? What would you like to play?
- Who told them to stop making so much noise?
- Who joined the parade?
- Where did the parade travel to?
- What other kinds of instruments did they use to make noise?
- What animals walked paw-in-paw?
- What did they march into?
- What animal did they hear after they walked out of the ocean?
- What did they decide to do every year on the anniversary?
- What is their cheer at the end of each year?



**Do**

## Rhyming Words BINGO

Before playing the game, have the children yell out rhyming words they heard in the story. For example: Say fight, possible answers – might or right. They may also say nonsense rhyming words (i.e. cright, pight, gright etc.)

Then, hand out a Rhyming Words BINGO sheet to each child. Take a few minutes to name all the pictures for the children. Give each child either stickers or crayons to mark their paper. Draw a card from the Teacher's Cards and say the word out loud. Help the children find a word on their sheet that rhymes with your card and have them mark it. Once they have three in a row, they yell "BINGO" and they can get a sticker or any other small reward. Keep playing the game until everyone gets a BINGO.

My Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Teacher Cards

up	see	hard	another	instead
more	afternoon	come	made	tunes
beat	land	scale	commotion	glee

