

My Friend Rabbit

by Eric Rohmann

Caldecott Medal Winner (2003). Children will love to take picture-walks through this story, as it is filled with hand-colored, relief prints. Each illustration is framed and outlined, which gives the impression that you are looking at a movie reel.



Read

Before:

Introduce the book by taking a picture walk through it. Follow that with a comment or question that is related to the story such as, *Why are the animals standing on each other?* Encourage a discussion so the children can comment, ask questions, and express their feelings. This book can be used to assess the children's Concept of Print skills. Set the stage for listening by asking an "I wonder" statement based on the cover illustration.

- I wonder what rabbit and mouse are going to do with the plane?

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 *My Friend Rabbit*

- follows: come after somebody or something
- idea: a suggestion or opinion
- reach: extend as far as something

After:

Discuss the story. Ask questions...

- What happened to the plane?
- Why was mouse in the air?
- Why did mouse look sad?
- Where did rabbit run to?
- What did rabbit pull toward mouse?
- Why was rabbit pushing a rhinoceros?
- What animals are rabbit and mouse using?
- How many animals are stacked on top of each other?
- What happened to the animals after they missed the plane?
- How did the animals feel after falling?
- What happened to the plane?

Do

How would you end the story?

After reading the story, have the children discuss how they would end the story. What do they think should happen to the plane? To the animals? Then hand out the "My Friend Rabbit" Alternate Ending sheet to each child. After they illustrate their thoughts on how to end the story, write (in their exact words) their story ending. You can place the new story endings on a wall, bulletin board or table.

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