

The Happy Day

by Ruth Krauss

Caldecott Honor book (1950). A bright yellow flower growing in the snow? The animals all dance and laugh at the first sign of spring.



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, *Flowers blooming is one of the signs that spring is here. What are some other signs?* 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 why the bear isn't dancing like the other animals?

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.

After:

Discuss the story. Ask questions...

- How do animals stay warm in the winter?
- What do field mice eat?
- Does a bear have more fur than a field mouse?
- What do snails eat?
- How are a squirrel and a ground hog alike?
- All the animals are sniffing. What do they smell?
- Why does seeing the little yellow flower growing in the snow make the animals laugh and dance?

Do

Signs of Spring Nature Walk

Go on a nature walk and look for signs of spring including new grass and colorful flowers poking up through the ground, new buds and leaves on the bushes and trees, animal tracks under trees, butterflies, baby animals, earthworms, and birds. Record your findings on a chart.

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