

Stellaluna

by Janell Cannon

A beloved picture book about a baby bat that falls headfirst into a bird's nest and is raised by birds until reunited with her mother.



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, *Bats sleep upside down and use their feet to hang on to the branch or twig.* 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 that bat isn't hanging upside down?

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 *Stellaluna*

- crooned: to sing or talk in a soft low voice
- clutched: to hold on to something tightly
- scent: a sweet smell
- limp: not stiff
- clambered: to climb quickly using hands and feet
- obey: to follow instructions or rules
- anxious: worried or afraid
- creature: any living person or animal
- delicious: a pleasing taste or smell
- mango: a red or green fruit with juicy, sweet orange-yellow pulp
- shrieked: a loud high-pitched piercing sound

After:

Discuss the story. Ask questions...

- How did Stellaluna get separated from her mother?
- What other crawly things do you think birds eat besides grasshoppers?
- Do you think the baby birds would have been able to hang by their feet for very long? Why not?
- What were the rules that Mama Bird wanted Stellaluna to obey?
- Compare the difference between the wings of a bird and the wings of a bat.
- Was Stellaluna's mother happy that she found her baby?
- What happened when Pip, Flitter and Flap tried to fly at night?
- Is it OK to be friends with people who are different from you?

The Bat-Man Consonant Song

Sing the sounds of the consonant letters to the tune from the Batman theme song. For younger children, have your alphabet chart handy and use a pointer so they can move easily from consonant to consonant. Here are the first three verses to get you started:

b b b b b b b

b b b b b b b

Batman!

c c c c c c c

c c c c c c c

Catman!

d d d d d d d

d d d d d d d

Datman!