



An introduction to the concept of homophones through playful pictures and rich language.

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 do you think this story is about? 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 the letter that the deer is reading is the same one that the ant is writing?*

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

- mousse—a light, sweet dessert made from eggs and whipped cream
- ewe—a female sheep
- daze—unable to think clearly; confused
- hoarse—having a rough-sounding voice
- hymn—a religious song
- feat—a remarkable achievement involving skill or courage
- tale—a story
- doe—a female deer
- kneaded—to press and squeeze dough or clay
- dough—a mixture of flour and water
- towed—pulled along by a rope or chain
- wail—a mournful cry
- aloud—using your voice
- pause—stop briefly
- bare—not covered by clothing
- flee—to run away
- gnus—a large antelope with a head like an ox, a short mane, a beard, downward curving horns and a fuzzy tail
- hare—a rabbit-like animal with large hind legs

After:

Discuss the story. Ask questions...

- What are words called that sound alike but have different meanings?
- If two words sound the same, would they be spelled the same?
- When you hear a word that is a homophone, how do you know which one it is? For example, if I say "I read the best book yesterday" – you know from what I said that I mean I "read" as in the act of reading vs. the color red.
- Who can tell me the meaning of the word flower/flour?

DO

Same Sound!

Homophones are words that sound alike but have different meanings. Review the list of homophones found in Dear Deer and ask the children to remember the different meanings. Next, write both words on a large piece of paper so the children can see the spelling of each word.

Dear/Deer	Threw/Through
Hear/Here	Read/Red
Aunt/Ant	Blew/Blue
Moose/Mousse	Choose/Chews
Ate/Eight	Herd/Heard
You/Ewe	Mood/Mooed
Daze/Days	Flew/Flu
Him/Hymn	Bee/Be
Horse/Hoarse	Flea/Flee
Feat/Feet	News/Gnus
Tale/Tail	Know/No
Doe/Dough	Hare/Hair
Kneaded/Needed	
Toad/Towed	
See/Sea	
Whale/Wail	
Allowed/Aloud	
Bear/Bare	
Pause/Paws	
Hey/Hay	

