



Polar Bear, Polar Bear, What Do You Hear?

by Bill Martin, Jr.

Splashy jewel-toned artwork along with rhyming and repetitive text make this book an excellent addition to every library.

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 this polar bear is searching for food?*

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

- snorting-to force air through the nose
- fluting-to make the sound of a flute
- braying-to make a donkey’s sound – high-pitched, raspy bellow
- hoarse-having a rough-sounding voice
- hissing-a sound like a continuous “s”
- trumpeting-a loud, high sound made when an elephant calls
- snarling-an angry growling sound
- yelping-a short sharp high-pitched bark or cry
- bellowing-to shout loudly in a deep voice

After:

Discuss the story. Ask questions...

- What sound does a lion make?
- A hippopotamus makes a snorting sound. What other animals snorts?
- Has anyone ever heard a flute? Does a flute make a pretty sound?
- What sound does a zebra and a donkey make?
- What letter of the alphabet makes the hissing sound?
- Do you think that elephants trumpet very often?
- A leopard makes a snarling sound. What other animals snarl?
- Has anyone ever seen a peacock? Did you hear it yelp?
- Do you think a bellowing sound is loud or quiet?
- Does anyone know how to whistle?



DO

What Do You Hear?

Make up another story using your students' names:

You: _____, _____, what do you hear?

Child: I hear a _____.

Some examples your child might use are clock ticking, car honking, or bird singing.

