

First Day of School

by Mercer Mayer

A lift the flap component adds to the in-depth illustrations of Little Critter's first day of school.



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, *Who can tell me what they remember about their first day of school?* 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 there is an open seat on the bus for Little Critter?

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 *First Day of School*

- early: before the expected time
- gooey: sticky and soft
- addition: the act of adding something onto something else
- cafeteria: self-service restaurant, especially one in a school
- recess: a break from classes during the school day
- famous: very well known
- Empire State Building: a very tall building in New York City
- Eiffel Tower: a 984-foot-high iron tower in Paris, France
- sailboat: a boat with one or more sails that is propelled by the wind

After:

Discuss the story. Ask questions...

- Do any of you get new school clothes to begin the school year? Do you wear them on the first day of school?
- Look at the picture of Little Critter's room. How many of you have a messy room like that?
- What is your favorite breakfast?
- How many of you ride the bus to school?
- Look at the pictures of all the different classmates of Little Critter. Which one do you like the best? Why?
- What sort of games or activities do you like to do at recess?

Do

New Items for School

Have the children make a list of all the new things they got for school. Include new supplies for school as well as new clothes.

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