

ABC's, Flowers and Trees: A Walk in the Public Garden

by Janet Lee Harrold

An ABC nature walk through the Boston Botanical Gardens that lovingly showcases the many beautiful plants, flowers, animals and pieces of art that one can find in the park.



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, *Have you ever walked through a garden? Where did you go?* 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 duck is wearing a baseball hat?

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 *ABC's, Flowers and Trees*

- botanical: plants and flowers
- containers: an object used to hold something
- carved: to make something by cutting and shaping it
- sculptor: an artist who makes sculptures
- matured: fully developed or complete
- bloom: to form into a flower
- marathon: a long-distance running race
- nutritional: food that is healthy and full of nutrients
- delicate: fragile, frail and easily broken
- linger: to delay leaving somewhere, a reluctance to go
- fragrance: a sweet smell
- crepe: a thin pancake with a filling
- lagoon: a small lake, shallow usually adjoining a larger body of water
- minimal: very small in amount
- minstrels: a group of entertainers and musicians
- herbal: aromatic herbs
- remedy: a way of putting something right

After:

Discuss the story. Ask questions...

- What did the artist paint?
- What did the letters B, C and D stand for?
- What types of trees and plants were in the park?
- What is a male goose called?
- What did the Hydrangea and Iris look like?
- Why were the joggers training?
- What colors were the lilac and magnolia trees?
- Which flower could you eat in a salad?
- What insect helped the peony grow?
- List the colors in a rainbow.
- What kind of boat did the kids like to ride?
- In what ways did they use the umbrella?
- What instruments were the men playing in the park?
- What were the Xenop and Yarrow?
- Which letter is last in the alphabet? Which flower started with the letter Z?



Do

C Stands for...

Before the lesson: On a full piece of paper, print the first letter of each child's name.

You will need: first letter sheets, stickers, markers, crayons, scissors, glue sticks, magazines and photographs

After reading the story, have each child find the page that their name starts with. Talk about other things that start with that same letter. Hand out the letter pages and allow the students enough time to decorate their letter with stickers, magazine cutouts and photographs of things that begin with that same letter.