

Skippyjon Jones

Shape Up

by Judy Schachner

An interesting variation on the usual board books that introduce shapes. Companion titles: *Up & Down*, *Color Crazy*, and *1-2-3*.



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, *This is a book about shapes. As I read, try and remember all the different shapes that Skippyjon is shaping up with.* 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 crazy kitty is exercising or dancing?

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 *Skippyjon Jones Shape Up*

- salsa: a Latin American dance
- teeter: to move unsteadily and as if about to fall
- orbit: to move around an object

After:

Discuss the story. Ask questions...

- Let's try and remember all the shapes...
- What was your favorite shape in this book?
- What object do you think of when you hear the word "orbit"?
- Can you think of another object that has a crescent shape? I'll give you a hint, it's yellow and you can eat it.
- How can you tell that the two rectangles are heavy?

Do

Missing Shapes!

Copy the attached Missing Shapes! printable so each child has their own sheet. Draw the other half of the missing shape!

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