

When a Line Bends...

A Shape Begins

by Rhonda Gowler Greene

Bouncy, rhyming text takes on the shape being described and invites readers to find the different shapes on each page.



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, *I like the first verse in this book... A line is thin. A line is narrow – curved like a worm, straight as an arrow. Shapes are really made out of lines, aren't they?* 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 setting for this book is a circus?

During:

Encourage the children to comment on the illustrations and ask questions. Take time to study the illustrations and understand what the text is saying. 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 *When a Line Bends... A Shape Begins*

- violin bow: a wooden rod used for playing stringed instruments
- swerves: to make a sudden change in direction
- square dance: a country dance in which four couples form a square
- pricked: to cause an animal's ears to stick straight up
- infield: the area of a baseball field bounded by home plate and the three bases
- cymbals: a round brass percussion instrument played by striking them together
- tambourine: a shallow drum with jingling metallic disks on its frame
- stout: strong and substantial
- tinsel: decorated with a thin strip of glittering metal foil
- hammock: a hanging bed made of netting
- dependable: trusted

After:

Discuss the story. Ask questions...

- Let's try and remember some of the things that a line is...
- What all is a square? Who can remember what the difference is between a rectangle and a square?
- How many sides does a triangle have? Let's see if we can find some triangles in our room...
- Let's all make a diamond with our legs like a ballerina.
- Circles are everywhere. One of my favorite things to eat is shaped like a circle. What other foods are shaped like circles? Who can remember what the difference is between an oval and a circle?
- Star and heart shapes are used a lot for jewelry. When you see a star or a heart, what is the first thing you think of?
- One of the objects in this book that is crescent-shaped is a hammock? Has anyone ever taken a nap in a hammock?
- Who can remember how many sides an octagon has? And what road sign is shaped like an octagon?

Do

Shape Sort

Collect ten small boxes and label each with the corresponding shapes in *When a Line Bends...A Shape Begins* (square, rectangle, triangle, diamond, circle, oval, star, heart, crescent and octagon). Let the children cut out shapes from old magazines and sort the shapes by placing them in the corresponding box.