

# Corduroy

by Don Freeman

One of the best loved books in children's literature.  
Corduroy is a timeless classic.



## 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 had a favorite toy puppy when I was little and his name was Scout.* 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 Corduroy finds the button that is missing from his overalls?

### 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 *Corduroy*

- escalator: a set of moving steps
- enormous: large in size

### After:

Discuss the story. Ask questions...

- Do you know anyone who wears overalls?
- Why do you think Lisa chose Corduroy over all the other toys on the shelf?
- Have you ever used an escalator? Where?
- Do you have a piggy bank?
- How do you think Corduroy felt as they were leaving the store?
- Do you have a special toy at home like Corduroy?
- Do you think Corduroy will be happy living with Lisa?

## Do

### Buttons! Buttons!

Mix together an assortment of buttons. Let the students sort the buttons by color, size, shape, and number of holes.

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# A Pocket for Corduroy

by Don Freeman

The loveable little bear in his green corduroy overalls goes on another adventure in a laundromat.



## 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, *Has anyone ever had anything get washed in the washing machine that shouldn't have been washed in the washing machine?* 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 Corduroy has anything in his pocket?

### 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 *A Pocket for Corduroy*

- laundromat: a self-service, coin-operated laundry facility
- patiently: able to wait without becoming upset
- perked: to stick up quickly
- precious: highly valued or much loved
- hesitating: to be slow in doing something
- reluctant: showing no enthusiasm to do something
- beret: a flat round soft hat
- inspired: to encourage to be creative
- studio: a place where an artist works
- accidentally: happening by chance
- steep: a sharp slope that is almost vertical
- drowsy: almost asleep
- senorita: Spanish for a young girl
- rascal: somebody who behaves in a teasing way
- affectionate: in a loving way
- nuzzled: to push or rub with the nose

### After:

Discuss the story. Ask questions...

- Has anyone ever been to a laundromat?
- What are some things that might be in your pocket that you would not want washed?
- What could Corduroy make a pocket out of?
- What happens to Corduroy at the laundromat?
- Whose bag of clothes did Corduroy crawl into?
- What does Corduroy think the box of soap is?
- Why does Corduroy stay at the laundromat?
- How did Lisa feel when she found Corduroy?
- Have you ever lost something and then found it?
- What does Lisa do for Corduroy when they get home?

**Do**

## **Counting Bears**

Ask each student to bring a teddy bear from home to class. Sort and graph the bears by color and size.