



# NATIONAL YOUNG READERS WEEK

An Annual Celebration of Reading Created by Pizza Hut® and The Center for the Book in the Library of Congress.

## *The House in the Night*

by Susan Marie Swanson

Caldecott Winner; 2009; A timeless story with detailed, enriched illustrations and a simple story that's beloved by young readers. Naming nighttime things is a part of many bedtime routines and calms even the most restless mind.

### Read

#### Before:

Before you read:

Introduce the book and tell the children a little bit about it. Follow with a comment or question that is related to the story such as, *What are some of your favorite items in your bedroom?* 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 moon, stars, flowers and window are yellow and everything else is black and white?*

#### 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 *The House in the Night*:

- **key:** a small metal instrument specially cut to fit into a lock and move the bolt
- **burns:** to undergo rapid combustion or consume fuel in such a way as to give off heat, gases, and, usually, light
- **light:** the radiance or illumination from a particular source
- **flies:** to move through the air using wings
- **breathes:** to take air into the lungs and expel it
- **starry:** filled, covered with, or illuminated by stars
- **shines:** to glow with light

## After:

Discuss the story. Ask questions...

- Name each of the three colors used throughout the book.
- How does the child get into the house?
- Describe what you see on the page that reads, "In the house burns a light."
- What kind of pets does the child have?
- Where does the book wait?
- Describe the items found in the child's room.
- What does the child take when flying off with the bird?
- How many houses can you count on the page that reads "all about the starry dark."
- What causes the moon to glow?
- What time of day is depicted in the painting on the child's wall on the page that reads, "bed in the light."

# Do

## Scratch Art

**You will need:** thick white cardstock, black paint, paintbrush, large wooden toothpicks, crayons

After reading the story, talk about the illustrations. Discuss the colors and technique used to create the pictures. Hand each student a piece of white cardstock. Instruct the students to create a picture using their crayons. They can either only use the yellow crayon or an array of colors. After they draw their picture, allow the students enough time to paint the entire piece of paper with black paint.

After drying for 24 hours hand each student his/her artwork and a toothpick. Next, the students will scratch off the black paint and reveal the underneath colors.

If desired, display the artwork on a wall or doorway. You could also create your own story using the student's illustrations.