



Samson in the Snow

By Philip C. Stead

Samson looks for a friend in the snow, and makes a new friend as well.

READ

Before: 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 do you think this story is about? 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 where that woolly mammoth is going?

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

- bothersome - causing trouble
- lumbering - moving slowly and awkwardly
- vast - very large

After: Discuss the story. Ask questions...

- What is Samson looking for?
- What does the little red bird ask for?
- What is Samson’s favorite color?
- What happened when Samson fell asleep?
- Who does Samson find on his journey?
- Who is the mouse looking for?
- What is the mouse’s favorite color?
- Where do the three friends go?
- What do they do in the cave?



Dandelion Painting

Materials:

- Forks
- Paper
- Yellow paint
- Green markers or paint

Using the green marker or paint, draw a flower stem on the page. Have the students use the tines of the fork and the yellow paint to create a dandelion at the top of the stem. Hang them up around the classroom to remind your students that spring is coming soon.