



Those Darn Squirrels!

By Adam Rubin Illustrated by Daniel Salmieri

Old Man Fookwire loves birds and not much else. What will he do when they leave for the winter?

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 why this old man is mad at the squirrels?

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

outskirts - the edge of a town or city

delicious - very tasty

cleverest - smartest

geniuses - very smart people

confident - having strong belief or full assurance

devise - to plan or elaborate

veritable - truly

fortress - a secure fort or stronghold

vast - very large

stockpile - a large supply of something

spectacular - marked by an impressive, large scale display

After: Discuss the story. Ask questions...

- Where did Old Man Fookwire live?
- What are some things Old Man Fookwire does not like?
- What does Old Man Fookwire like?
- What does Old Man Fookwire do to keep the birds around?
- Who else likes the bird feeders?
- What are squirrels good at?
- What did Old Man Fookwire do to stop the squirrels?
- What did he build?
- How did Old Man Fookwire feel when the birds left?
- What did the squirrels give Old Man Fookwire?
- What did the squirrels do for Old Man Fookwire?



DO

Bird Feeder

Materials

Cheerios
Yarn

Tie a knot at the end of a piece of yarn big enough to hold the cheerios on the string. Have your students add cheerios to the string then tie a knot at the other end. Hang them from a tree and be sure they are near a branch so the birds have a place to sit while they eat.

