

The Little Match Girl

by Hans Christian Anderson

Tender ink and watercolor illustrations and an emotional story of hope, faith and a little girl's journey to find a better life, are beautifully combined in this adaptation of an unforgettable tale.



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, *What do you wear during the winter season?* 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 she is outside in the snow?

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 Little Match Girl*

- bitterly: strong and sharp in taste
- apron: protective garment tied over clothes to keep them clean while cooking
- perishing: to disappear, or to die because of harsh conditions or an accident
- misery: great unhappiness
- fancied: not plain, intricate and of high quality
- polished: to make smooth or glossy
- brass: a yellow alloy, metallic element, used to make items
- vanished: to disappear suddenly
- gauze: finely woven fabric, thin and almost transparent
- halo: circle of light around the head or a religious painting, an aura of glory

After:

Discuss the story. Ask questions...

- Why didn't the match girl have any shoes?
- What was she selling?
- When she lit the match, what did she imagine was surrounding her?
- Who did she see after she lit a bunch of matches?
- Where did she go after her grandmother appeared?

Do

Imagination Time

After reading the story, have the children discuss what they would wish for. If they could have anything in the world, what would it be? Would they go to a special place? Meet someone famous? Get a new toy? Then hand out the "In My Dreams" sheet to each child. After they illustrate their thoughts, write (in their exact words) their dreams and what they would wish for.