

The Goodnight Train

by June Sobel

Rich colors, simple rhymes and fun sound words combine and send children on a whimsical journey through dreamland, as the train pulls into the station and all is at rest.



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, *Can you describe one of your dreams?* 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 how the boys' bed became a train car?

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 Goodnight Train*

- coal: black rock used for fuel
- porter: an attendant in a sleeping railroad car
- freight: goods for transportation
- snores: breathe noisily during sleep

After:

Discuss the story. Ask questions...

- What kinds of things were being loaded onto the train before it set out?
- Why was the turtle cleaning the child? The man cleaning the engine's nose?
- When did the train leave the station?
- Can you describe what the clouds looked like during the train ride?
- Why did the children bounce in the air?
- Why did the sky get darker and darker as the train traveled on the tracks?
- What were some of the sounds that the train made during the ride?
- Who can make the sounds of the wheels?
- What sorts of things did the train pass by?
- What happened to the children as the train pulled into the station?



Do

Sound Words Card Game

Cut and shuffle the *Sound Word Cards*. Read through all the cards and show each card to the children. Turn all the cards face down (like Memory). Choose a card and have one child come up and turn over another card. If the card matches with the card you chose, they have made a match. If the cards do not match, they simply flip the card over and you choose another child to come up. Repeat the steps until all the cards are matched. If desired, reshuffle the cards and play the game throughout the week. The more you and your children play the game, remembering the sound words will become easier. You can leave the game in a center and the children can play the game independently or with a partner.

My Name: _____

Goodnight Train Sound Cards

toot-toot

toot-toot

scrub-a-dub

scrub-a-dub

whooooo!

whooooo!

huff-a-puff

huff-a-puff

chooooo!

chooooo!

rock-a

rock-a

shhhhhh!

shhhhhh!

clickety-clack

clickety-clack

chug-chug

chug-chug

hush-a

hush-a

sleeeep!

sleeeep!

