

Make Way for Ducklings

by Robert McCloskey

Lithographs illustrate this 1942 Caldecott winning story of two mallard ducks who decide to raise their ducklings in Boston Public Garden.



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 kinds of places do you normally see ducks?* 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 what the ducklings' names are?

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 *Make Way for Ducklings*

- island: an area of land completely surrounded by water
- enormous: very large
- waddled: walked with short steps that swayed the body from side to side
- delighted: very pleased
- dither: nervous and not able to make a decision
- molt: to shed feathers
- tumbled: fell or collapsed
- beckoned: to signal or summon by nodding or waving

After:

Discuss the story. Ask questions...

- The first time Mrs. Mallard visited Boston Public Garden, she thought it was a good place to raise ducklings. What happened to make her change her mind?
- Who remembers what it means to molt?
- How many eggs did Mrs. Mallard lay?
- Do you think Michael the policeman liked the ducks? How can you tell?
- Let's remember some names of the ducklings. Do these names sound alike?
- What all did Mrs. Mallard teach her baby duckling to do?
- Why do you think the cars kept honking and wouldn't stop to let Mrs. Mallard and her ducklings to cross the road?
- Why did Michael call the police headquarters and tell Clancy to send a police car?

Do

Make Egg Carton Ducklings

Materials:

two-cup section from an egg carton with the sections still attached (one section for each child)

glue

scissors

construction paper

wiggly eyes

feathers

Instructions:

Bend the egg carton cups towards each other, rim to rim, creating a full-egg shape. Glue the cups together to form the duckling's body. Cut out a bill and feet from construction paper and glue them to the duckling's body. Glue feathers all over the body and add wiggly eyes.