

The House in the Night

by Susan Marie Swanson

Scratchboard illustrations combined with simple text explore the sources of light on a dark night as a young girl takes an imaginary journey at bedtime.



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, *Who can tell me about a time they stood outside and looked at the stars in the sky?* 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 who lives in that house?

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 House in the Night*

- burns: shines
- breathes: utter

After:

Discuss the story. Ask questions...

- How do you think it would feel to fly through the sky on the bird's back?
- What are some of the items you can see in the girl's room?
- Do you think that the book the girl is reading is one of her favorites? Why or why not?
- What do you think "on the moon's face shines the sun" means?
- How many sources of light can you find in the book?

Do

Make Crayon Scratchings

Materials:

White printer paper, cut in half

Crayons

Black crayons

Magazines for padding (one per child)

Large paper clip (one per child)

Instructions:

Place a piece of printer paper over the magazine and color with brightly-colored crayons, pressing hard. Then, color over the bright colors with a black crayon, still pressing hard. Remove the magazine from under the paper. Use the paper clip to gently scrape a pattern, design, or picture into the black areas, revealing the colors underneath.