

# Duck at the Door

by Jackie Urbanovic

A heart-warming story about a duck named Max, who becomes a larger-than-life houseguest, and forces his way into the hearts of his reluctant hosts.



## 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 has ever had a duck for a pet?* 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 Max is peeking around the door?

### 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 *Duck at the Door*

- creak: move with squeaking
- middle: being halfway between beginning and end
- spring: the season of the year between winter and summer
- flock: a group of birds that travel, live, or feed together
- lonely: feeling sad through being without friends or company
- flair: a natural ability to do something well
- rerun: to show a TV series again
- memorized: learn and remember something
- chef: a professional cook
- ordinary: common
- life: whole time somebody is alive

## After:

Discuss the story. Ask questions...

- Why was Max out in the cold?
- Why wasn't he with his flock?
- When was Max born?
- Why was Max lonely?
- Can you name all the pets that Irene had in her house?
- Who was Brody?
- What did Max learn in January? February? March? April?
- Why did Max return to his flock in April?
- Who did Max give his chef's hat to? Rubber duckies to?
- Why was the house so quiet after Max returned to his flock?
- When did Max return? Why? Who came with him?



**Do**

## "Duck Duck Goose"

Ask the children to squat in a circle formation. Then ask one child to walk around the outside of the circle, lightly touching each child's head and saying "Duck, Duck." When he touches another child and says "Goose," that child chases him around the circle. If the child who was "it" returns to the "goose's" place without being tagged, he remains. When this happens, the tapped child is "it."