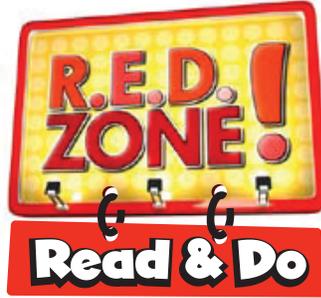


Father Bear Comes Home

by Else Holmelund Minarik

Follow the adventures of Little Bear and his friends in this classic story with easy to read text and funny illustrations.



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, *Do any of your family members go fishing on a regular basis?* 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 if that bear has a fish on the line?

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 *Father Bear Comes Home*

- log: a section of the trunk of a tree
- sails: go by boat on water
- octopus: a sea animal with eight arms
- whale: a large ocean mammal
- mermaid: a mythical sea creature with the head and upper body of a woman and the tail of a fish
- wise: knowing much from experience
- picnic: a meal taken and eaten outdoors
- shy: timid and easily frightened

After:

Discuss the story. Ask questions...

- How many of you have ever been fishing before? Who did you go fishing with? Did you catch any fish?
- Owl imagined that he had caught a whale. Do you think an owl could really catch a whale?
- Little Bear imagined that he had caught an octopus. What are some other animals that you can think of that live in the sea or the ocean?
- How do you think Little Bear, Hen, Duck and Cat felt when they found out there was no little mermaid?
- Have any of you ever heard the ocean in a sea shell?
- When you get the hiccups, what do you do to make them stop?
- Which character in the book is your favorite? Why?

Do

Go Fish!

Cut fish shapes (or a variety of ocean animal shapes) out of various colors of construction paper. Attach a paper clip to each fish. Make a fishing pole by tying string to a short dowel. Attach a small magnet to the end of the string. At group time, present each child with a pole. Place the fish on the floor and allow the children to take turns fishing. As a fish is caught, the child removes it from the magnet and names the color. Repeat until all of the children have had a turn. You can also add numbers or letters to each fish for the children to identify.