

Stellaluna

by Janell Cannon

An instant classic full of breathtaking illustrations and action. Children will cheer as they follow this lovable, small brown bat on her night adventure as she tries desperately to be reunited with her mother and learns some life lessons on the way.



Read

Before:

Introduce the book and tell the children a little bit about it. Follow with a comment or question that is related to the story such as, *People find friends in some of the most unlikely places!* 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 Stellaluna isn't hanging upside down like most bats do?

During:

Encourage the children to comment on the illustrations, ask questions, and predict what will happen next in the story. Ask the children to try and remember as you read which animal crawled in the mitten first, second, and so on. 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 *Stellaluna*:

- sultry: oppressively hot
- clutched: to grab with or as with the hands or claws; snatch
- powerful: physically strong
- swooped: to sweep through the air
- limp: to progress slowly and with great difficulty
- daybreak: the time when light first appears in the sky at the beginning of a day
- downy: soft
- clambered: to climb quickly but awkwardly, using hands and feet
- disappearing: to cease to be seen
- curious: eager to know about something or to get information
- instant: happening immediately, without delay or effort
- gracefully: showing elegance, beauty, and smoothness of form or movement
- embarrassing: causing painful self-consciousness, uncomfortableness, shame, or humiliation
- exercising: physical activity and movement, especially when intended to keep a person or animal fit and healthy
- anxious: worried or afraid, especially about something that is going to happen or might happen
- ached: a feeling of constant dull pain
- peculiar: unusual, strange, or unconventional

Rare Words in *Stellaluna* (continued):

- strange: not expected, usual, or ordinary
- survived: to remain alive or in existence or able to live or function, especially succeed in staying alive when faced with a life-threatening danger
- delicious: having an appealing or enjoyable taste or smell
- mystery: an event or situation that is difficult to fully understand or explain

After:

Discuss the story. Ask questions...

- Who spied on Mother Bat and Stellaluna while they were looking for food?
- How long did Stellaluna hang in the tree branches before she lost her grip?
- Where did Stellaluna land after that?
- What were the names of the baby birds?
- What did Stellaluna eat while she stayed in the nest?
- Why was Mama Bird upset with Stellaluna?
- What happened when the nest got crowded?
- How long did Stellaluna and the birds fly around? Why did the birds leave Stellaluna?
- Who found Stellaluna? Why did they think she was acting weird?
- Who was with the bats that found Stellaluna?
- How did Stellaluna and the bats get around at night?
- What did Flitter, Flap and Pip think of Stellaluna's family?

Do

My Family

You will need: blank white paper, markers, crayons and construction paper

After reading the story, discuss the importance of family and how everyone has a different type of family. Talk about how Stellaluna spends the entire story trying to get back to her mother and family. Next, allow every one enough time to talk about their own families. Then, give each child a blank piece of paper, markers and crayons. Allow each child enough time to draw a picture of his/her family members.

If desired, place each family portrait on a piece of construction paper and display on a wall or bulletin board.