

Fletcher and the Springtime Blossoms

by Julia Rawlinson

A cute little fox mistakes blossoms for snow in this beautifully illustrated picture book.



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, *This book is about a little fox who becomes confused between snow and flower blossoms.* 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 this fox is thinking about?

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 *Fletcher and the Springtime Blossoms*

- chirping: a short high-pitched sound, especially as made by a bird
- bustling: to move around energetically
- singsong: having an intonation that regularly rises and falls in pitch
- sniffing: to breathe in through the nose
- tumbled: to fall suddenly, especially rolling over and over
- orchard: an area of land on which fruit or nut trees are grown
- breeze: light to moderate wind
- trotted: to move at a jogging pace that is faster than walking but slower than running
- coo-cooing: to make the sound of a pigeon
- porcupine: a large rodent whose body is covered with long protective quills
- snuggle: to get into a comfortable, cozy position.
- scratch-scratching: to rub or scrape a surface with claws
- snuffled: to breathe noisily through a partially blocked nose
- scampering: running quickly or playfully
- feast: large and elaborate meal
- munch: to chew food purposefully, usually with visible movements of the jaw
- burrow: a hole or tunnel dug as a living space by a small animal such as a rabbit
- dizzily: unsteady, as if about to lose balance
- blossoms: a mass of flowers appearing on a tree or bush
- bobbing: bouncing up and down quickly and repeatedly
- foolish: showing a lack of good sense or judgment
- scooped: a curving digging movement made with a scoop or the hand
- tickly: producing a tickling sensation on the surface of the skin
- fluttering: to move something light or small in a quick back-and-forth motion
- collapsed: to fall down suddenly, generally as a result of damage or lack of support

After:

Discuss the story. Ask questions...

- Fletcher plays chase with the butterflies. Do you think you could catch a butterfly?
- In what ways do the flower blossoms look like snow?
- Do any of you know why birds fly south for the winter?
- What do you think Porcupine does during the winter?
- How many different animals did Fletcher tell it was snowing?
- Were Fletcher's friends mad at him for telling them it was snowing?
- Do you think the animals were more excited to see the flower blossoms than the snow? Why or why not?



Do

Flower Comparison

Place a variety of flowers on the science table and encourage the children to compare the shape, size, and smell of the stems, leaves, and petals.