

The Mitten

by Jan Brett

A classic picture book adapted from a Ukrainian folktale showcasing finely detailed winter scenes.



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, *What clothing do people wear in the winter?* 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 how that mitten got left on the ground?

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 *The Mitten*

- Baba: a nickname or form of address for an older person
- knitting: to interlock loops of yarn together to make a garment or item
- perched: a place for a bird to land or rest

After:

Discuss the story. Ask questions...

- Why would a white mitten be hard to find in the snow?
- Which animal got in the mitten first?
- Why did the animals want to crawl in the mitten?
- Who can remember all the animals that crawled in the mitten?
- Which animal was the largest that crawled in the mitten?
- What caused the animals to fly out of the mitten?

Do

Stuff the Mitten

You will find a PDF of the mitten and all the animals who crawled into the mitten on Jan Brett’s web site (www.janbrett.com). Make a copy of the mittens and animals for each child so they can color and cut out. The mitten can then either be taped or sewed together. Sewing with yarn is a fun, safe fine-motor activity. The animals can crawl right in as you read! You can also have the children use their animal cutouts to sort and sequence – by size and by who crawled in first, etc.

www.bookitprogram.com/redzone

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