

Bear on a Bike: Storytelling tips and Learning tools

Before narration:

- Introduce this story as a story about a boy following a bear as it explores different places using different modes of transportation
- Have a discussion on what modes of transportation the children are familiar with. How many have they used to travel?

Storytelling:

- Enact the story:
 - Show facial expressions of the boy and the bear
 - A curious look each time the boy asks the bear where it is going
 - A fearful look when the bear goes to the forest, a happy look when he goes to the castle, a playful look when he goes to the beach, etc.
- Imitate the animals in the forest: Snarl like the bobcat, howl like the fox, show the playing raccoon in the forest picture
- Use character voices for the boy and the bear—a high voice for the boy and a low voice for the bear
- Ask the children to identify the different modes of transportation in the book
- Invite the children to guess where the bear is going next based on the clues in the current illustration. For ex. In the bear in a steam train illustration, the blue sea is shown on the right end of the spread that gives us a clue that the bear is going to the beach
If they guessed it right, tell them something like, "That's right. The bear is going to the beach."
If they didn't get it right, encourage them to look closer. Usually they will figure it out after the first time that the right end of the page has the clue.

After narration:

- Ask kids:
 - If they have been to the market, beach, forest, etc. and ask them to describe their experiences
 - Who else is following the bear other than the boy? [Answer: The birds and the dog]
- Using the illustrations, work with the children on the below:
 - 'Market' picture:
 - ✓ Spot and count the bees
 - ✓ Identify the fruits and vegetables
 - 'Raft' illustration: Count the fish
 - 'Forest' illustration: Spot, count, and name the different animals
 - 'Beach' illustration:
 - ✓ Count the # of wheels on the train
 - ✓ Spot all the seagulls
 - ✓ Find out who's racing with whom
 - ✓ Describe the lifesaver the bear wears and explain why it's necessary to take to the beach
 - 'Island' illustration:
 - ✓ Point out the herons
 - ✓ Show 'sparkling waters' using your hands as you would show twinkling stars
 - ✓ Explain what an island is

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- 'Castle' illustration:
 - ✓ Guess what the animal driving the carriage could be
[Answer: Leopard-spotted appaloosa]
 - ✓ How is 'night is turned to day' shown in the illustration?
[Answer: Moon setting and sun rising]
 - ✓ How is the music being played shown in the illustration?
[Answer: Symbols for musical notes leaving the musical instruments]
- 'Rocket' illustration:
 - Explain what a rocket is
 - What's the bear wearing on his head? Why?
[Answer: Space helmet]
 - What else is shown in space?
[Answer: Alien, satellite, moon, planets, stars]
- Teach the new words in the story

Extended activities:

- Use colored paper (or paper from magazines) to cut out the different 'vehicles' in the book to make a collage
- Make an origami boat
- Draw the different modes of transportation