

Skippyjon Jones Class Action

by Judy Schachner

Skippyjon Jones, the irrepressible Siamese kitty boy who thinks he is a Chihuahua, is ready for school. Follow along in the adventures of our favorite little teacher's pet in this colorfully painted story full of mischief and rhymes.



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, *Where would you love to go to a school? Would you like to go to school for dogs?* 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 Skippyjon Jones will be friends with the dogs?

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 *Skippyjon Jones Class Action*:

- scruff: the back of the neck
- emphatically: to do something with force or definiteness
- unruly: difficult to control, manage or discipline
- dramatically: to do something in a way that grabs attention and causes a reaction
- ferocious: very fierce or savage
- atrocious: extremely cruel or bad
- trainer: somebody who trains animals or people
- nudged: to push or poke somebody
- nugget: something small and precious
- plaid: checkered fabric woven
- boarding: to house animals
- panted: to take short fast shallow breaths
- bully: an aggressive person who intimidates people
- wool: yarn used to make clothes
- trembling: to shake slightly but uncontrollably
- potent: strong and effective
- panic: an overpowering fear of anxiety
- unravel: to undo knitted strands or to become undone
- knit: to interlock yarn loops to create something

www.bookitprogram.com/redzone

Visit the R.E.D. Zone for more reading-readiness, printables, read-aloud tips, resources and more!

Rare Words in *Skippyjon Jones Class Action* continued:

- rovers: somebody who wanders from place to place
- bayed: to howl or to make a loud outcry
- canine: another word for dog
- chorus: a large group of singers
- delicious: good to eat, delightful
- scent: having a pleasant smell
- obedience: the act of obeying, following rules
- gruesome: horrifying
- grumble: to express dissatisfaction
- plink: to shoot at a target for fun
- leaped: to jump forcefully with a long or high arc
- latched: to fasten something with a hatch
- whirling: to turn or spin rapidly
- dervish: a frenzied person, very energetic
- destruction: the process of destroying something
- exposing: to allow something to be seen, to reveal someone's wrongdoings
- quilt: fabric pieces that are sewn together to make a bed covering

After:

Discuss the story. Ask questions...

- Where did Skippyjon Jones want to go?
- Who did Mama Junebug Jones say went to school...why?
- What does Skippyjon Jones see in the mirror...how many of them?
- What three things did Skippyjon Jones throw in his mochila?
- Who did he find on the school bus in his closet?
- Why did Los Chimichangos need Skippyjon Jones' help?
- What kind of dog was the principal?
- What classes did Skippyjon Jones go to and what did he do in each?
- What does the scent of books waiting to be read smell better than?
- What is the word for cheese in French? Spanish?
- Describe the bull-ito...why was he bullying?
- Who chased Skippyjon Jones away?

Do

Rhyme Time

Re-read the story and have the children pick out all the words that rhyme. Write down each rhyming sets and discuss what makes the words rhyme. For example, bus and fuss – they both end with the “us” word family. Hunch/lunch – have the same ending, etc. If desired, allow the children to come up with other rhyming words for each set. They can include nonsense words like truss, pruss, muss, etc.