

A Baby Sister for Frances

by Russell Hoban

Soothing illustrations and real-life conversations help children understand and discover their new roles, as a new sibling is introduced into the family.



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 would it be like to have a new baby in your family?* 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 kind of things Frances does to help take care of her baby sister?

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 *A Baby Sister for Frances*

- gravel: small stones
- empty: not containing or holding anything
- rattled: make short sharp knocking sounds
- cozy: warm, comfortable, and snug
- allowance: small sum of money paid regularly by parents to a child
- piggyback: to ride on somebody's back
- special: unusual or better
- plenty: a large amount
- knapsack: a bag strapped on the back and used for carrying supplies or personal belongings.
- exactly: precisely and true in all details
- lonesome: sad from being alone
- fond: to like or find enjoyment in something
- wasps: striped black and yellow stinging insect
- humming: to sing with lips closed
- lucky: to have success or good fortune
- clever: intelligent smart
- charming: delightful
- rhyme: a word with an ending that sounds similar to the ending of another word

After:

Discuss the story. Ask questions...

- Why did Frances march through the living room rattling gravel in a can?
- What things did Frances need in bed with her?
- Why did Frances eat bananas instead of raisins and wear a yellow dress instead of the blue one?
- Why did Frances run away?
- Where did Frances run away to?
- What did Frances' parents say that they missed about her?
- What kind of cake did Frances and her mom make after she returned home?



Do

Rhyme Time

After reading the story, as a group, pick out the rhyming words used in the story. Read a page out of the book and help the children find the rhyming words. For example, on page 1, plink and sink and me and plee both rhyme. On page 16, gone and dawn rhyme. Continue reading the pages that contain rhyming words and continue pointing out those words that rhyme.