

Blueberries for Sal

by Robert McCloskey

Caldecott Honor Book (1949). Simple yet elegant illustrations go along with this heartfelt voyage on Blueberry Hill.



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, *Did you know that blueberries grow on bushes? What else can you think of that grows on bushes?* 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 those blueberries taste good?

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 *Blueberries for Sal*

- pail: bucket
- can: to package food by putting it in a sealed container
- struggled: to make a great effort to achieve something
- clump: a group of things growing
- hustle: to hurry
- tramping: the sound of heavy footsteps
- partridge: a medium-sized bird
- shy: easily frightened
- padded: to walk with soft or silent steps
- peeked: to take a quick look at something
- tremendous: extremely large
- entire: whole
- gasped: to breathe in sharply

After:

Discuss the story. Ask questions...

- Why did Little Sal's mother want to pick blueberries? Why do you think Little Sal ate so many blueberries?
- Why did Little Bear and her mother want to eat blueberries?
- Who do you think ate more blueberries, Little Sal or Little Bear?
- How do you think Little Sal felt when she thought she found her mother but it was really a bear? Would you be frightened of a bear?
- What do you think Little Sal's mother thought when she found out Little Bear was behind her?
- Do you think Little Sal and her mother were happy when they found each other? How do you think Little Bear and her mother felt when they found each other?

Bear Trivia

1. This bear's name starts with a "P." It is black and white and lives in China. What is its name?

Answer: Panda

2. This bear's name starts with a "P." It lives in the freezing Arctic. Although it looks white, it has clear-colored hair and black skin. What is its name? **Answer: Polar Bear**

3. This bear's name starts with a "G." It has a hump on its shoulders and has brown to gray hair. What is it called? **Answer: Grizzly Bear**

4. This bear's name starts with a "B." It is a big bear with a hump on its shoulders. What is its name? **Answer: Brown Bear**

This is a good time to point out that the grizzly bear is a type of brown bear.

5. This bear's name starts with a "B." Despite its name, it can have black or brown hair (and has no hump on its shoulder). What is its name? **Answer: Black Bear**

6. This bear's name starts with an "S." It is the smallest bear and is from Asia. It is also called the honey bear. What is its name? **Answer: Sun Bear**

7. This word starts with an "S." It is a South American bear that has markings around its eyes that look like glasses. What is its name? **Answer: Spectacled Bear**

8. This word starts with a "C." It is a place made of rock where some bears make their den. What is this word? **Answer: Cave**

9. This word starts with an "M." All bears belong to this group of animals. This type of animal has hair on its body, and the female feeds milk to its young. What is this type of animal? **Answer: Mammal**

10. This word starts with a "T." It is the name of a toy bear that many children like to play with. What is its name? **Answer: Teddy Bear**

You might want to mention that the Teddy bear was named for the US President Theodore (Teddy) Roosevelt.

Source: www.paulmesnerpuppets.org