

Doodle Dandies

by J. Patrick Lewis

A collection of poems each of which appears on the page in the shape of its subject.



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, *This book is a little different because the words are in the shape of what the poem is about. First we'll make sure we see the shape and understand what it is and then we'll read the poem about that shape.* 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 that dot above the "i" is supposed to be a pearl? It looks like a pearl.

During:

Encourage the children to comment on the illustrations and ask questions. Some of the shapes and concepts might not be familiar – what a great learning opportunity! 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 *Doodle Dandies*

- dachshund: a small dog with a long body, short legs, and drooping ears
- patchwork quilts: different pieces of fabric sewn together in a decorative way
- hobbles: to walk unsteadily with short steps
- stilts: poles with footrests high off the ground
- ironic: a surprise that is usually the opposite of the truth
- dipsy-do: to fall lower and then raise again
- resist: stand firm against
- forbidden: not allowed by law
- weeping willow: a tree with long drooping branches and narrow leaves
- woven: weaved together (in this case, by the wind)
- widow: a woman whose husband has died
- fantasy: an image or dream created by the imagination
- delights: great pleasure or enjoyment
- ignites: to set fire to something or be heated
- synchronized: to work at the same time and at the same rate
- precision: exactness or accuracy
- unravels: to undo the threads or strands of something
- spectacle: an event that is impressive
- cinder: charred pieces of coal
- hurled: to throw with great force
- identical: exactly the same
- fluttered: to move gently but quickly in a wavy motion
- dromedary: a camel with one hump
- bactrian: a camel with two humps
- scurrying: to move quickly with small fast steps
- recklessly: without thought about danger
- hurdle: a fence or object that is jumped over in a race
- cosmic: outer space
- century: a period of 100 years

After:

Discuss the story. Ask questions...

- Which poem was your favorite? Why?
- What is another name for a dachshund? Does anyone have that type of dog?
- Poems can make you feel different emotions. How did the Weeping Willow poem make you feel? Big Cat? Lashondra Scores?
- Do you think it would be hard or easy to be on a synchronized swim team? Why?
- Would a snake really eat a bull frog? What else do you think snakes eat?
- Does anyone have any twins in their family? Are their names similar?
- Does anyone know what is inside the hump on a camel? Most people think that water is in there, but it's really just fat and flesh – the camel can absorb food from that fat and flesh, though, so it is helpful to them.
- Halley's Comet only passes through every 100 years. Wow, that's a long time. Let's see...how old will you all be in the year 2061?



Do

Doodle Dandie Fun

Make a doodle dandie of your own. Using the children as lines for shapes or as the legs of letters, make a shape or spell out a word or phrase (depending on how many children you have). Take a picture and post for parents to see!