

Hi, Cat!

by Ezra Jack Keats

Through rich colors, newsprint and fabric scraps, young readers follow a boy, as havoc ensues, after he innocently says “hi” to a stray cat.



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 makes you laugh and what do you do to make your friends and family laugh?* 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 the cat belongs to the boy?

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 *Hi, Cat!*:

- block: the section of street between two parallel streets
- reflection: the image of somebody or something that appears in a mirror or reflective surface
- shaky: trembling or unsteady
- croaked: the rough voice of a person
- delicious: having an appealing or enjoyable taste or smell
- respect: the state of being admired
- whispered: to speak or say something very softly
- folks: a greeting used to address a group of people
- announced: to declare or report something publicly
- motioned: to gesture or signal something to somebody
- obeyed: to follow instructions, rules or laws, to behave
- mustache: the facial hair that grows on somebody’s upper lip

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After:

Discuss the story. Ask questions...

- What was Archie eating?
- What was new on the block?
- How did Archie act when he met up with his friends?
- How did Willie greet Archie?
- Describe how Mister Big Face looked.
- How was Mister Big Face destroyed?
- How else did Archie try to entertain his friends? What happened?



Do

Lights, Camera, Action! - Talent Show

Before: add new clothes, shoes, hats, accessories and props to the “dress-up/imagination” center.

After reading the story, discuss with the children what makes them laugh, what special talents/skills they have and how they sometimes entertain their families and friends. Allow the children enough time to dress-up, create “skits” and show off their talents.

Additional Activity: if desired, invite other classrooms or parents to come and watch the Talent Show.