

I Was So Mad

by Mercer Mayer

A short story with funny illustrations showing Little Critter being told “no” to everything he wants to do.



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, *Have any of you ever been told you couldn't do something that you really wanted to do?* 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 where he found those frogs?

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 *I Was So Mad*

- decorate: to make something more attractive
- juggling: to keep several objects in motion in the air at the same time by throwing them and catching them in quick succession

After:

Discuss the story. Ask questions...

- What would your mom say if you asked to keep some frogs in the bathtub?
- Why wouldn't grandma let him play in the clean sheets?
- Have you ever colored or painted on the wall at home?
- Little Critter wanted to juggle eggs – not a good idea. What objects do you think his mom would have let him juggle?
- A goldfish is not an animal you can play with. What other animals can't be played with?
- Where do you think he was going to run away to?
- How do you think he will feel tomorrow? Will he still want to run away?

Anger Poem

- Purpose:** To develop in children a tool for coping with their anger in an appropriate way.
- Materials:** None
- Procedure:** Teach the following poem to the children and suggest that they recite it when they are feeling upset, angry, or out of control.

When angry feelings start to mount,
That's when I take some time to count.
One...Two...Three...Four...Five.

Counting helps me settle down,
Counting helps to fade my frown.
Six...Seven...Eight...Nine...Ten.

Rice, Judith Ann (1995). *The Kindness Curriculum, Introducing Young Children To Loving Values.*