

Knuffle Bunny

by Mo Willems

Caldecott Honor Book (2005). Black and white photos mixed with cartoon characters help bring out the many emotions experienced during a trip to the laundromat.



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, *Do any of you have a favorite stuffed animal?* 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 why this little kid looks so excited?

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 *Knuffle Bunny*

- errand: a short trip somewhere to do something for somebody else
- block: the section of a street between two parallel streets
- laundromat: a self-service place to do laundry
- laundry: dirty clothes to be washed
- realized: to become aware of something
- fussy: easily upset
- bawled: to cry very loudly
- zoomed: to move very fast

After:

Discuss the story. Ask questions...

- Have any of you ever been to a laundromat? Do you get to help your parents put the laundry into the machine?
- Why do you think Trixie put pants on top of her head? Have you ever done this?
- What do you think Trixie's dad is thinking when he sees Trixie with pants on her head?
- What do you think Trixie is trying to tell her dad on the way home?
- What do you suppose others walking down the street thought when they saw Trixie bawling?
- Why do you think Trixie is so happy when she finds Knuffle Bunny?
- Do any of you know what the first words you ever said were?

Do

Your "Knuffle Bunny" Buddy

Invite children to bring in a favorite toy or stuffed animal for show-and-tell and describe the adventures they have had together. Ask them what makes that toy special or one-of-a-kind.

www.bookitprogram.com/redzone

Visit the R.E.D Zone for more reading-readiness, printables, read-aloud tips, resources and more!