

The Little Old Lady Who Was Not Afraid of Anything

by Linda Williams

Beautifully colored, detailed folk art illustrations are a perfect compliment to the text in this classic.



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 little old lady is not afraid of anything! What sort of things make you feel afraid?* 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 the little old lady is going?

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 *The Little Old Lady Who Was Not Afraid of Anything*

- afraid: frightened about something
- cottage: a small house, usually in the countryside
- collect: to gather things in one place
- herbs: a plant used for seasoning
- spices: aromatic plant substance used as flavoring
- sliver: a small narrow piece of something
- pace: the speed somebody or something moves
- startled: to frighten a person or animal into making them jump
- bravely: showing courage, especially when facing danger
- suddenly: happening very quickly

After:

Discuss the story. Ask questions...

- What was the noise that the two shoes made? And the pair of pants? And the shirt? The two gloves? The hat? And the pumpkin head?
- What noises can you think of that scare you or make you jump?
- Do you think the scarecrow is scarier during the day or night?
- How did the little old lady overcome her fear of the scarecrow?
- What do you think the little old lady whispered to the pumpkin?
- Why did the little old lady tell the pumpkin to go in the garden?

Do

Scarecrow Band!

Read this book a second time and have the children provide the sound effects! Choose an instrument to represent each of the six noises that the little old lady hears. If you don't have instruments readily available, toys or kitchen utensils work just as well. Give every child an instrument and when they hear you say the noise, tell them to play it with their instrument. Mix up the instruments so the children can play them all.