

My Father's Hands

by Joanne Ryder

A simple, straightforward description of a special father-daughter outing.



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, *How do you feel when your Dad holds your hand (e.g., like when you are walking across the street)?* 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 this little girl and her Dad found that snail?

During:

Encourage the children to comment on the illustrations and ask questions. Think about the different occasions when you might hang on to your Dad's hand or those special things you do with your Dad. 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 *My Father's Hands*

- scooping: to remove with a cupped hand
- weeding: to pull up and remove weeds
- patch: a small area of land used for growing
- garden: a plot of ground where fruits and vegetables are grown
- budding: formation and growth of buds on a plant stem
- armor: something that gives protection
- mantis: a large green insect with a long body and large eyes
- urging: to encourage to do something
- scampering: to run quickly or playfully
- swaying: to swing back and forth
- plucks: to pull something out quickly
- treasures: something of great value

After:

Discuss the story. Ask questions...

- What are some things that your Dad likes to do?
- What are some special things you like to do with your Dad?
- This Dad picks up all sorts of creatures to show his daughter. Would your Dad pick up a worm? A beetle? A snail? A mantis?
- What creature would your Dad not pick up?
- What is the best thing about your Dad?

Do

Hand Print Hanging

Prepare thick tempera paint and pour a small amount into a shallow pan. Give each child a coordinating piece of construction paper and have them press their hand into the paint and then onto the paper. Provide a bucket of warm, soapy water for easy clean up. Dry the hand prints and then add the poem, or another of your choice, below for a sweet Father's Day gift.

"This is the hand
You used to hold
When I was only
xx years old."