

My Truck is Stuck!

by Kevin Lewis

Mischievous beavers collide with a dump truck and hilarity ensues as fellow travelers stop to free the stuck truck. Illustrations saturated with bright primary colors and a story rich in poetic verse will make this a class library favorite.



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 you ever been in a vehicle when it was stuck? What happened?* 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 driver will ever get his truck unstuck?

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 *My Truck is Stuck!*

- haulin': pull or drag something
- rotten: mean and nasty attitude
- grind: to rub two surfaces together
- inch: unit of length, a very small distance
- travelers: somebody on a journey
- engines: machine for powering equipment
- steep: sloping sharply, almost vertical
- heft: to lift up something heavy, especially with a burst of effort
- haul: pull or drag something
- youngsters: a child or young person
- lurch: to lean or pitch suddenly to one side
- mechanic: somebody who repairs machinery
- deliver: carry something to somebody

After:

Discuss the story. Ask questions...

- What made the hole in the road?
- What happened to the truck?
- What was the first vehicle that tried to pull the truck out?
- What other kinds of vehicles tried helping the dump truck?
- Who finally came and was able to pull out the truck?
- What happened to all the bones in the back of the truck?



Do

Show Me...

You will need: an assortment of small building blocks, counting bears, linking cubes or any object that you have enough for every child to have five of each.

Sort the small items into groups of five and give a group to each child. Ask the children to show you the number of items you ask for. For example, "show me three blocks." The children will then hold up three blocks. If you have children that struggle with counting, count out your own blocks and hold them up. That way they can see what three looks like. Repeat the steps for numbers 0-5.

Extra Activities

If desired, you can add more items to the children's pile. You can go up to ten. Children will have difficulty holding up large quantities of items, so they can either make a tower or a pile of the correct number. For example, "show me a tower of 9 blocks" or "show me a pile of 8 counting bears" etc.