

Pictures from Our Vacation

by Lynne Rae Perkins

Two siblings use pictures and journal style entries to tell of their adventures on their not so boring family vacation.



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 to the ocean? Describe what it was like.* 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 there are sharks in the water?

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 *Pictures from Our Vacation*

- peel: to remove an outer layer
- souvenirs: something bought or kept as a reminder of a place
- cottages: a small house, usually in the countryside
- hammocks: a hanging bed made of canvas suspended between two things
- waterfall: river water falling over a steep place
- aquarium: a water-filled container where water animals live
- silvery: resembling silver, especially in color
- racquets: long-handled rackets used to hit balls over a net
- French: the official language of France
- ancient: very old, of a distant past
- sculpture: creation of 3D work of art, especially by carving, modeling or casting
- serpent: same as a snake
- wade: to walk in the water
- gazebo: small building with a view, slightly elevated
- memorial: something that commemorates an event or person

After:

Discuss the story. Ask questions...

- Why was the family packing their car?
- What did the dad give each of his children?
- Where did the family travel to on their vacation?
- What was the first picture that the daughter took?
- Describe some of the rooms the daughter dreamt of for her cottages.
- What game did the family play before it started to rain?
- What were some of the things that the family did while it rained?
- How did the family finally get to the lake?
- Why did the family have to take shelter at the lake?
- What were some of the great things that Great-Aunt Charlotte accomplished while she was living?
- Describe some of the things that the kids and their cousins did at the farm house.
- What pictures did the two siblings take of their vacation?
- What did the two siblings think about the vacation?



Do

Our Vacation Memories

Before: ask each family to send one or two pictures of their child on a family vacation, trip or special summer event. Explain that you will be laminating the pictures and they will not be getting the pictures back.

You will need: construction paper, pictures of each child, markers/crayons, glue and a lamination machine or paper

After reading the story, have each child show the class his/her picture(s) and tell the story behind the picture. Next, have the children glue their picture(s) onto a piece of construction paper. Ask the children several key questions. For example: *Where was this picture taken; How old were you in this picture; Who all went with you; What did you like best about the trip/event/vacation, etc.* Dictate their responses in their exact words and write the answers below the picture on the construction paper. Laminate the pages and bind all the pages together, making a class Vacation Memory Book.

If desired: send home a note to each parent, asking all the same questions that you will ask the children. That way if the children do not know an answer (or make something up), you will have the correct responses.