

Skippyjon Jones and the Big Bones

by Judy Schachner

It's into the closet again with our favorite little bandito Skippito Friskito! This time he is searching out the rarest dinosaur of them all...the Skipposaurus. Follow along in this colorful adventure filled with an exploration in rhyming.



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, *Would you ever take a bone from a dinosaur? Why?* 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 Skippyjon Jones will get into trouble for taking that bone?

During:

Encourage the children to comment on the illustrations, ask questions, and predict what will happen next in the story. Ask the children to try and remember as you read which animal crawled in the mitten first, second, and so on. 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 *Skippyjon Jones and the Big Bones*:

- paleontologist: a scientist who digs in the ground looking for fossils
- declared: to announce something clearly or loudly
- prehistoric: before recorded history
- fossil: preserved remains of animals or plants
- intention: the aim or objective of something that somebody plans to do
- chanted: a phrase spoken repeatedly by a crowd
- flung: to throw something violently
- cabeza: the Spanish word for "head"
- buried: to put something in a hole and cover with dirt
- sediment: the eroded material from rocks that is transported by wind or water
- threshold: the point at which something begins or changes
- scent: the smell or aroma of something
- toasting: to brown something with heat
- ojos: the Spanish word for "eyes"
- insane: lacking reasonable thought
- rim: the outer edge of something circular
- volcano: a mountain that holds molten, gaseous and solid materials and can be ejected out
- romp: to run around or play in a boisterous way
- Earth: the planet in which we live on, the third planet from the Sun

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Rare Words in *Skippyjon Jones and the Big Bones* continued:

- tremble: to shake slightly but uncontrollably
- spiky: something have one or several spikes
- frilled: a band of feathers, fur or skin
- rumba: a Cuban rhythmic ballroom dance
- shimmied: a quick sideways movement
- peaks: the highest point of a mountain
- knobby: having small hard rounded knobs on your skin
- fuego: the Spanish word for "fire"
- tumbled: to fall or make something fall over
- avalanche: the downhill fall of snow down a mountainside

After:

Discuss the story. Ask questions...

- Where did Skippyjon Jones like to dig? Why?
- What does Skippyjon Jones want to be?
- Who do the bones belong to according to Mama Junebug Jones?
- What is the Spanish word for head?
- What did Skippyjon Jones find in his closet?
- Why were the marshmallows hard as rocas?
- What is the name of the volcano?
- What does "terremoto" mean in English?
- Describe the dinosaurs that Skippyjon Jones saw. What colors do you see?
- Try to pronounce Pachycephalosaurus.
- How does T. Mexito describe Skippito Friskito?
- How did Skippito defeat the dinosaurs?



Ojos - Eyes

Throughout the Skippyjon Jones books there is a mixture of Spanish and English words. Have the children discuss all the Spanish/English words that they know. Re-read the story and stop every time there is a Spanish word. Have the children guess what that word means in English. If desired, choose some other English words in the story and decide what it means in Spanish.

Spanish – English Words

cabeza – head	Por que – why	muy bueno – very good
muy – very	terremoto – earthquake	perritos – little dog
amigos – friends	dinosaurio – dinosaur	
prehistoricos – prehistoric	Ay, caramba – Oh, wow	
si – yes	loco – crazy	
rocas - rock	fuego – fire	