

Skippyjon Jones in Mummy Trouble

by Judy Schachner

Travel along with Skippyjon Jones, a Siamese cat who thinks he's a Chihuahua, as he visits the pyramids in this colorfully illustrated book filled with rhymes, riddles, word-play and mucho fun!



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, *Pyramids and mummies are found in Egypt. What would you do if you were in a pyramid and found a mummy?* 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 what Skippyjon Jones is making in his litter box?

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 in Mummy Trouble*:

- whiskers: short hairs near an animal's mouth
- tornado: an extremely destructive funnel-shaped rotating air windstorm
- pyramid: a huge stone tomb with a square base and triangle sides, found in Egypt
- magazine: a published piece of literature filled with photographs and stories
- mused: to say something thoughtfully
- taboo: forbidden or unacceptable
- skedaddled: to run away quickly
- mummy: the body of a person or animal that is wrapped in cloth before buried
- knots: a tangled mess
- Egypt: the country found in Africa, a high tourist destination, filled with pyramids
- donned: to put on a garment
- ancient: somebody or something from a past civilization, the distant past
- paddling: to use a short oar with a flat blade to propel a canoe or small boat
- Nile: the largest river in the world that flows through Egypt
- crocodile: a large reptile with strong jaws that lives near water
- hunkered: to squat down close to the ground
- Sphinx: a statue that has a lion's body and a woman's head, made of rock and found in Egypt
- riddle: a puzzle in the form of a question or rhyme that contains clues to its answer
- jinx: an unseen cause of misfortune

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Rare Words in *Skippyjon Jones in Mummy Trouble*: continued

- gato: the Spanish word for "cat"
- permission: to give authorization to someone or to allow something to happen
- virus: a viral disease caused by bacteria
- inscribed: to put writing on something
- papyrus: material resembling paper used by ancient Egyptians made from the stem of a water plant
- queasy: nauseated or feeling ill in the stomach
- comfort: the conditions in which somebody feels relaxed
- musty: smelling old, damp or stale
- tomb: a grave or monument used as a burial place
- chanting: phrase spoken repeatedly by a crowd
- vault: a burial chamber, usually underground, with arched ceilings
- comet: a astronomical object with a long tail
- goddesses: a figure or image, somebody that is admired
- emerged: to come out, survive or to appear from behind something
- journey: a trip or expedition from one place to another
- trio: a group of three
- ramp: a sloping surface that allows access from one level to a higher or lower level
- sarcophagus: an ancient stone or marble coffin, used to house mummies
- tailspin: a state of panic or great confusion
- spirits: a life force of a person

After:

Discuss the story. Ask questions...

- What did Skippyjon Jones make out of his kitty litter? How did Mama Junebug Jones feel about that?
- What was Skippyjon Jones busy doing?
- Who does Skippyjon Jones see in the mirror?
- Where did Skippyjon Jones plan on going?
- Describe how Skippyjon Jones got to Egypt.
- Who was the Finx referring to in his riddle?
- Describe how Skippyjon Jones felt when they got to the pyramid?
- What do the Egyptian goddesses look like?
- What did Skippyjon Jones grab before hightailing it home?
- Who did the goddesses turn out to be?



Do

The Band of Los Chimichangos

You will need: white paper, markers/crayons

Throughout the series of books, Skippyjon Jones meets the Los Chimichangos on many occasions. Imagine that you are a member of the Los Chimichangos. How would you get your friends to join the group? Hand each child a piece of paper and have him/her draw themselves as a member of the Los Chimichangos band. Dictate, in their own words, how they would convince their other friends to join their group.