# Skippyjon Jones

by Judy Schachner

A pun-filled comedy littered with Spanish words and Spanglish accents brought to life with colorful, lively illustrations.



# 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, Who can describe what a Siamese cat looks like? A Chihuahua? In what ways are they alike? 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 that thing with the big ears is a cat or a dog?

#### 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 Skippyjon Jones

- · self-respecting: belief in your own worth and dignity
- · scolded: to speak harshly to another
- · lecture: an educational speech
- serious: importantgrouse: a large bird
- guacamole: a mashed avocado served as a dip
- rifled: searched
- bandito: an outlaw
- · lonesome: no one or nothing around
- journey: a trip somewhere
- · mysterioso: unknown (mysterious)
- · incognito: in disguise
- · decreed: announce officially
- · fiesta: a celebration
- · siesta: a nap
- outraged: extremely angry
- · somber: serious and sad
- · declared: announced clearly
- · shimmied: wobbled and vibrated
- · castanets: a pair of small curved pieces that make a clicking sound
- · hovered: flutter in the air without moving
- · ruckus: noise
- piñata: a papier-mache container of candy and gifts

#### After:

Discuss the story. Ask questions...

- Do cats and birds get along?
- Do you hear birds when you wake up?
- Do you have a cat at home? What does your cat like to do?
- How should a cat behave?
- Does Skippyjon look like a Chihuahua?
- Which do you like better a fiesta or a siesta?
- Do bees make good pets? Why or why not?
- What are your favorite kinds of beans to eat?
- Do you like burritos? Would you like jelly beans in your burritos?



## El Skippito Maskito

Make a "maskito" out of paper plate. Draw the outline ahead of time so all the children have to do is color and cut out the eye holes. Thread of a piece of yarn through a tiny hole on each side for securing. When finished, sing Skippyjon's song:

My name is Skippito Friskito. (clap, clap)

I fear not a single bandito. (clap, clap)

My manners are mellow,

I'm sweet like the Jell-O,

I get the job done, yes indeed-o. (clap, clap)