

The Girl Who Loved Wild Horses

by Paul Goble

An award-winning author of Native American legends tells the story of a young Native American girl devoted to the care of her tribe's horses.



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 has ridden a horse?* 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 girl has ever ridden the wild stallion?

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 *The Girl Who Loved Wild Horses*

- tipis: a tent built around several long branches or wooden poles that meet and cross at the top
- herds: a large number of animals of the same breed
- buffalo: a North American bison
- village: a place where people live temporarily as a community
- daybreak: the time when light first appears in the sky at the beginning of a day
- shelter: a structure that provides cover from weather or protection against danger
- blizzards: heavy snowstorm
- meadows: an area of low-lying grassland, especially a marshy one near a river
- faint: dim / not producing very much light, or less bright than is usual
- rumble: a deep sound
- thunder: a loud noise following lightning
- breeze: light to moderate wind
- leapt: to jump
- snorting: to make a harsh sound by forcing air through the nostrils
- mane: long hair on the head and neck of an animal such as a horse
- galloping: proceeding at a very fast rate
- clung: to hold onto somebody or something tightly with the hands or arms
- hooves: the feet of a horse
- horizon: place where earth meets sky
- neighing: the long high-pitched sound that a horse makes
- prancing: to jump forward on back legs
- leader: somebody who guides or directs others
- vanished: to disappear suddenly
- hunters: somebody who seeks out a particular type of person or thing
- mounted: riding on a horse
- chase: to follow somebody quickly in order to catch him or her
- dodged: to move quickly and suddenly to one side to avoid being caught or hit
- courage: the ability to face danger, or pain without being overcome by fear
- stumbled: to trip when walking or running

After:

Discuss the story. Ask questions...

- Why did the Native Americans move from place to place?
- What did the Native American girl do with the horses?
- What scared the horses and made them gallop away from the village?
- When did the horses finally stop running?
- Why was the little girl lost? How long?
- Why did she live with the wild horses?
- Who found the little girl? How did they finally catch her?
- Why was the girl so sad after returning home? What happened next?
- What did she give her parents for letting her live with the horses?
- How often did she return home to visit her parents? What gift did she give them whenever she returned?



Do

“If I Were a Horse”

Have the children act out as if they were a horse.

If I Were a Horse

If I were a horse, I'd gallop all around.

(slap thighs and gallop in a circle)

I'd shake my head and say “neigh, neigh.”

(shake head)

I'd prance and gallop all over town.