

## THE MITTEN

by Jan Brett

Beloved by children and parents alike since 1989, this is an adaptation from a Ukrainian folktale about a boy and how his brand new knitted mitten becomes a snugly home for several animal friends.

### READ

#### Before:

Before you read:

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, *The woodland animals find a new home in a mitten. If you were lost in a snowy forest, what would you use for a home?* 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 how the mitten got left in the forest?*

#### 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 *The Mitten*:

- knitting: forming a fabric by looping a continuous yarn
- mole: a small mammal, living underground with velvety fur, small eyes and strong forefeet
- hedgehog: a small nocturnal mammal with a protective covering of spines on the back
- crowded: uncomfortably close together
- packed: filled to capacity or pressed together
- perched: to settle or rest in some elevated position
- sail: to move or travel over something or through the air

## After:

Discuss the story. Ask questions...

- What color of mittens did Nicki want his grandmother to make for him?
- What is the problem with having white mittens in the snow?
- What happened to one of Nicki's mittens when he went out to play?
- Name some of the animals that crawled inside the mitten.
- Why did the rabbit want inside the mitten? The fox? The owl? The bear?
- What was the last animal to climb into the mitten?
- What caused all of the animals to fall out of the mitten?
- How many mittens did Nicki go home with?

# DO

## Stuff the Mittens

**You will need:** scissors, yarn, large plastic needle, hole punch, *The Mitten and Animals* activity sheets, craft sticks, permanent markers, crayons/markers

**Before:** Make two copies of the mitten, one set for each student. Next, punch holes through each mitten set (follow the markings) and cut two feet of yarn for each child. Finally, secure the yarn to the large plastic needle.

After reading the story, hand each child the Animals activity sheet. Allow the students enough time to color and cut out each animal. Next, help each student glue one craft stick to the backside of each animal. Then, help the students number their animals from 1 to 8. Next, give each child a set of mittens, yarn and large plastic needle. Instruct the students to thread the yarn through each hole in the mittens, sewing the two sides together. Once they finish the mitten, tie a knot at the beginning and ending of the yarn, securing the mittens together. (The bottom of the mitten will remain open).

Finally, reread the story. As you read the story the students will place the appropriate animal inside the mitten.

If you desire, laminate the mittens before punching the holes. To insure the mitten will last through many storytimes!

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