

The Story of Ferdinand

by Munro Leaf

A true classic with a timeless message, *The Story of Ferdinand* has enchanted readers since it was first published in 1936. This new edition contains the complete original text of the story and the original illustrations with watercolor tones added.



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 tell me what kind of animal was Ferdinand?* 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 why Ferdinand liked to smell the flowers?

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 Story of Ferdinand*

- favorite: preferred or most liked
- pasture: grass-covered land used for grazing livestock
- cork tree: an evergreen oak whose thick bark is a source of cork
- lonesome: feeling sad, because of being alone
- understanding: a sympathetic recognition of somebody else's situation
- snorting: to make a harsh sound by forcing air through the nostrils
- fierce: showing anger
- banderilleros: a bullfighter's assistant who sticks a dart into the bull during a bullfight
- picadores: a bullfighter on horseback, who attacks the bull with a spear early in the fight
- spears: a long-handled weapon with a blade
- matador: the main bullfighter in a bullfight, whose job is to kill the bull
- cape: a sleeveless outer garment that is fastened at the neck and hangs loosely from the shoulders

After:

Discuss the story. Ask questions...

- What country did Ferdinand live in?
- Where did Ferdinand sit quietly smelling the flowers?
- Why did Ferdinand's mother worry about him?
- What is Ferdinand's mother called?
- Why was Ferdinand chosen as the fiercest bull for the bull fights?
- What did Ferdinand sit on? What happened?
- What did Ferdinand ride in to the bull fight?
- What did the ladies wear to the bull fight?
- Who was in the parade? Banderilleros? Picadores? Matador?
- What kind of clothes did the matador wear? Red cape? Why?
- What did Ferdinand do when he got in the middle of the ring?
- What happened to Ferdinand when he didn't fight?



Do

Stage a Parade and Bull Fight In Madrid

Have the children dress up and pose as banderilleros, picadores, matadors, and bulls. Act out the parade and actual bull fight in Madrid.