

The Very Lonely Firefly

by Eric Carle

A classic story with simple text, unique illustrations and a light show at the end of the book



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, *Fireflies have a blinking light that flashes on and off during the night. This light helps them find other fireflies. How many of you have ever seen a firefly?* 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 this firefly only flies around at night?

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 Very Lonely Firefly*

- flickering: to shine unsteadily
- reflecting: to redirect a light that strikes a surface back to where it started
- flooding: to cover completely
- sparkling: giving off light in brilliant flashes
- glittering: reflecting light in bright sparkling flashes
- shimmering: to shine softly with a flickering light

After:

Discuss the story. Ask questions...

- Did you know that a firefly is not a fly – it's a soft-bodied beetle.
- What were some of the objects that the firefly thought were another firefly?
- What are some other objects that could be mistaken for a firefly?
- How many times did the firefly think he had found another firefly?
- How do you think the firefly felt each time he saw a light that was not another firefly?
- How do you think the firefly felt after he found the other fireflies?
- Are there any other animals or insects or beetles that have a light in their tail like the firefly does?

Do

Firefly Flashlights!

For each flashlight you will need:

One flashlight per child (try the dollar store for \$1 flashlights or ask parents to send one to class)

Glue

Two 2-inch half circle foam shapes

Two 4-inch half circle foam shapes

2 thin, rectangular foam shapes

2 small foam circles for eyes, one-half inch wide

Directions:

The lighted end of the flashlight will be the firefly's tail. Glue the two eyes on each side of the other end of the flashlight to make the firefly's eyes. Now glue the two rectangular shaped antenna at the top of the flashlight, above the eyes. Midway down the flashlight is where you will glue one 2-inch half circle and one 4-inch circle on each side of the flashlight to make wings. Let the flashlight fireflies dry, then turn them on to see them light up!

Wistrom, Elizabeth, (2009). <http://www.brighthub.com/education/early-childhood/articles/39454.aspx>.