

Walter Was Worried

by Laura Vaccaro Seeg

An alphabet-based game of I Spy. The letters that spell out Walter's feelings form his facial expressions.



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, *This is an alphabet book, but it's different from most because the letters from the feeling being presented are used to form the facial expressions on the different kids.* 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 this boy is worried?

During:

Encourage the children to comment on the illustrations, ask questions, and find all the letters on each face. 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 *Walter Was Worried*

- worried: to feel anxious about something unpleasant that may or may have happened
- puzzled: confused
- shocked: a feeling of intense distress
- delighted: great enjoyment and pleasure
- hopeful: feeling fairly sure that something that is wanted will happen
- ecstatic: great pleasure or delight

After:

Discuss the story. Ask questions...

- Wow – who knew that alphabet letters could be used to make faces!
- Why would Walter be worried about the sky turning dark? What happens when the sky turns dark?
- What would be something else that Shirley might be shocked to see in the sky?
- Thunder can definitely be frightening, especially for animals. What animals can you think of that might be frightened by thunder?
- What are some things you can't do when it is raining? Have you ever had plans to do something but couldn't because it rained?
- Ecstatic means really happy. What makes you ecstatic?

Do

Alphabet Self Portraits

Cut out letters from old magazines and use them to form the face for a self portrait. Glue the face on a paper plate or piece of construction paper and finish by coloring or using yarn for hair.

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