

Arthur's Family Vacation

by Marc Brown

Through humor and watercolor illustrations readers will love following this well-known family as they come together and make the most out of their summer vacation.



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, *Have you ever been sad to go on a vacation? Why?* 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 what is all packed in the car?

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 *Arthur's Family Vacation*

- college: a university with higher education
- vacation: a break from normal activity devoted to rest, travel and recreation
- puny: very small or thin and weak
- lobster: a hard-shelled sea crustacean with large pincers
- postcard: a card used for a small message and sent through the mail
- disaster: damaging or destructive event
- festival: a programmed day filled with performances, events and exhibits
- glorious: exceptionally lovely and outstanding

After:

Discuss the story. Ask questions...

- Where was Arthur at the beginning of the story?
- What were some of the things that Arthur's friends were going to do during the summer?
- Why didn't Arthur want to go on vacation?
- What did Arthur's family pack for their vacation?
- Was Arthur excited to go on the trip? Why or why not?
- When Arthur thought about Buster at camp, what did he think Buster was doing?
- Describe Arthur's hotel room and pool.
- Why didn't Arthur and his family get to do anything outside?
- What did Arthur and D.W. write on the postcards to their grandmother and Buster?
- What were some activities that Arthur and his family did in the rain? Did they have fun?
- Did it ever stop raining? What did Arthur and his family do when it did stop raining?
- How did Arthur feel about his vacation after he returned home? What did he show Buster?



Do

Rainy Day Bags

You will need: 4 or 5 canvas bags (enough bags for 2-3 students to share), puzzles, markers/crayons, activity books, play dough, books, card games, other various small indoor items chosen by the students

After reading the story, talk about some things that you could do inside when it is raining. Talk about the difference between indoor and outdoor activities. Pull out the canvas bags (that have the words "Rainy Day" written on them). Have the children choose activities that they can put in the bags. These activities can only be done if there is indoor recess or if they are not able to go outside because of the weather. You will need to show some examples of things they can add to the bags, i.e. markers/crayons, paper, activity books, play dough, books, card games, etc. Choose a special place to store your *Rainy Day* bags that can be easily accessed by the students.