

Owl Moon

by Jane Yolen

Caldecott Medal Winner (1988). A gentle poetic story that recaps the adventure of a young child and her father trudging through the snow at night to search for the great horned owl.



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, *Has anyone ever seen or heard an owl?* 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 the man and the little girl are out in the snow at night?

During:

Encourage the children to comment on the illustrations, ask questions, and predict what will happen next in the story. Explain to the children that this story is really about something special that this father and daughter do together. 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 *Owl Moon*

- statues: an image that is molded, sculpted or carved
- clearing: an open space without trees
- echo: a sound that repeats
- meadow: a grassy field

After:

Discuss the story. Ask questions...

- How would you have felt walking through the woods at night if you were the girl in the story?
- Do you think the girl would have been upset if they had not seen an owl?
- Why do you think the girl wanted to go owling with her Pa?
- Why do you suppose the girl decided not to say anything after she saw the owl?
- Think of some times when you have to be quiet...is it hard?
- Why do owls hunt for food at night?
- Is there someone special that you like to do things with?

Do

Calling All Owls!

Using the same call that Pa did – whoo-who-who-who-whoooooo - hold an owl calling contest. You can invite a special adult or another classroom to judge. Have fun with it!

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