

A House Is a House for Me

by Mary Ann Hoberman

Where does an ear of corn or an airplane live? This rollicking rhyme about houses is a longtime favorite.



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 a glove is a house for? A boot?* 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 all those people and creatures live in that house?

During:

Encourage the children to comment on the illustrations, ask questions, and finish the sentences (e.g., A web is a house for a _____). 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 *A House Is a House for Me*

- flea: a small animal wingless insect that lives as a parasite on a warm-blooded animal
- duchess: the wife of a duke
- dwelling: a house or place where someone lives
- Cree: a member of a Native North American people who live in central Canada and Montana
- Hopi: a member of a Native North American people who live in northeastern Arizona
- Mohee: a member of a Native North American people
- farfetching: beyond reason

After:

Discuss the story. Ask questions...

- Let's see if you can remember who or what lives where...
A hive? A nest? A sty? A coop? A fold? A barn? A hutch? A castle? A lake? An ocean? A puddle? A hangar? A dock? A terminal? A husk? A pod? A barrel? A bottle?
- And, best of all, what is a book a house for?

Do

Build a House

Collect several large cardboard boxes and let the children build their own house. If possible, paint with Tempera Paint and decorate with wallpaper.

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