

The Cat and the Snail

GOALS

Comprehension

Discuss strategies for reading a play: What is a narrator? Which parts do the characters read? Predict what the play might be about.

Vocabulary

High-frequency Words: a, am, and, are, back, can, come, did, do, for, get, go, going, have, her, here, I, if, in, into, is, it, like, my, no, not, of, off, on, out, ran, run, so, some, the, then, to, too, we, what, where, will, you

Content Words: bird, cat, cheep, choose, dog, fast, gate, goes, hello, home, its, OK, park, race, ready, set, shell, sit, snail, still, tree, win

Phonemic Awareness

Recognise and produce words that begin with the same sound: /sn/

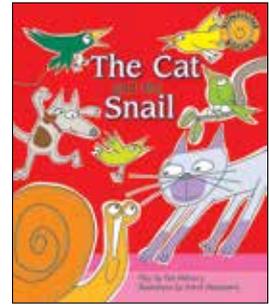
Phonics

Letters and Sounds: sn

Words to Blend and Segment: snap, snip, snug, sniff, snack

Fluency

Read the play as a readers theatre together before taking character parts in groups of five.



This is a play about a race between a cat and a snail.

Before Reading

- Ask: What is a play? How do we read a play? What is a narrator? How do we know which parts the characters read?
- Together look at the cover picture. Discuss what is happening in the picture. Read the title. Discuss what students think will happen to the cat and the snail.
- Read the title and the names of the author and illustrator. Help students to use the title and cover illustration to make predictions about the play.
- On the title page, discuss the animals in the illustration. Ask: What do you think might happen in the play? What characters are in the play?
- Talk/walk through the pictures. Discuss the animals and what they are doing on each page, e.g. on page 3 what are the cat and dog doing? (having a running race).
- On page 13, have students predict the ending.

Reading the Text

- Read the title together and the names of the author and illustrator. On the title page, read the names of the characters together.
- On page 2, read what the narrator says together to set the scene. Find the word starting with p (*park*). Ask: What are the cat and the dog doing? Look for /r/ in *run*. Look for the letter t (*tree*). Who do you think will win the race? Read the words together.
- Follow this pattern for each page up to page 13, discussing the illustration and reading the words together.
- Review the predictions for the ending made earlier, then turn the page to reveal the ending. Have students discuss what they see in the illustration. Read the text together. Ask: Did you like the ending? Why? Who won the race?

After Reading

Invite students to discuss the play. Prompt if needed.

- Discuss the ending. Is this what students predicted?
- Look at the punctuation on page 2. Model how to read the text with commas, question marks and the exclamation mark.
- Reread the play together, noticing the repetitive parts and punctuation.
- Ask students to retell the story using the pictures on each page as a guide. Who was racing first? Second? And so on? How did the snail win the race?

Phonemic Awareness

- Recognise and produce words that begin with the same sound: /sn/ e.g. snap, snip, snug, sniff, snack. Students listen for the /sn/ blend as you read the words slowly. They repeat the words. /sn/ /a/ /p/, snap, emphasizing the /sn/. They think of other words to say that begin with /sn/, e.g. snail, sneak, sneeze, snooze.

Phonics

- Discuss the sound of the blend /sn/. Write the words snap, snip, snug, sniff, snack on the board to practise blending and segmenting the sounds together as a group, e.g. /sn/ /i/ /p/, snip. Illustrate using alphabet letters for each word and touching them as the sounds are made for the word.

Word Study

- Talk about the words *if, run, like, where, going, come, get, will*. Read them together. Ask students to locate the words in the text. Print multiple sets of the flash cards from the inside front cover and use them to play a game of matching the words.
- On a piece of paper, have students draw a picture from the story. They find the words in the story and write them. They read their sentence to a partner, e.g. *Cat: No Snail, I am too fast for you.*

Fluency

- Read the play as a reader's theatre together before taking character parts in groups of five or more. Students can make animal masks to wear when acting out the play.

Writing

- Students make a time line to show the order of the play. They label their illustrations and use this to retell the play.
- Students write a new sentence using the pattern from the play. They draw a picture first, then write the sentence, e.g. *Tortoise: Are you ready? Get set, go!*

Home/School Link

Take the book home and any related activity done in class to share with family.