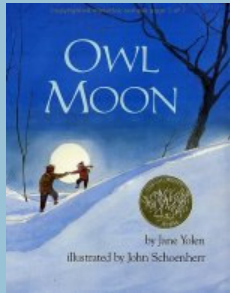


Beyond the Book...

Title: Owl Moon

Author: Jane Yolen



Summary: One cold winter night a father and son went owling. As they walked toward the woods they heard several different sounds. They walked through the woods as quietly as they could. They never spoke a word, and even though they were cold, they were extremely quiet. The father would hoot like an owl and they would wait. If they didn't hear anything they would go farther in the woods and he would hoot again. Sometimes there is no owl and sometimes there is.



Before Reading...

- Talk about what an owl is. Let the child tell you what s/he knows about owls.
- Practice the sound of an owl. Ask what it means to go owling. Listen to your child's ideas.
- Talk about echoes: "What is an echo? How is an echo made?" Echo back and forth with your child using the "whoo" sound.
- Make predictions about what will happen in the story based on the pictures on the cover. Ask questions like: "Looking at the picture on the cover, what do you think the story is going to be about?"

During Reading...

- As you go through the book, pick out unusual words to teach the child (examples in book: statues, cap, crunched, pointy, disappointed, stained, clearing, threading, supper, meadow, silently, stared).
- Talk about the beginning, middle, and end of the story. Have your child retell the story. Ask your child about the setting and characters in the story.
- Point out and talk about the shadows on the snow in the pictures.
- Ask questions: What do you think will happen next? Will they find the owl? Where will an owl most likely be?

After Reading...

- Tip-toe around the yard, making owl noises. Stop and listen, then tell about what you hear.
- Take a walk in the dark (in or around the house) with a flashlight. Look for anything in nature. Talk about what you see in the light.
- Play hide and seek in the dark. Have the child call like an owl for you (or other family members) to find them.
- Paint a picture of a forest with watercolors. Mix certain colors together to make a winter forest. You can both do this activity.

For additional activities visit www.uwchatt.org or call 423.752.0300.

These activities provided by United Way's Project Ready for School initiative and created by students at The University of Tennessee at Chattanooga.

