

If You Take a Mouse to School

by Laura Numeroff

The adorable little mouse never stops as one adventure leads to another in this charming picture book.



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, *This is a story about all the things that happen if you take a mouse to school. What are some things that you think would happen if you took a mouse to school?* 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 this mouse likes to write?

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 *If You Take a Mouse to School*

- lunchbox: a container for foods to be carried somewhere
- notebook: a small book in which to write
- backpack: a knapsack used to carry schoolbooks and other school supplies
- locker: a small compartment where personal belongings can be left
- math: subject in school that is the study of the relationship among numbers
- science experiment: a test to discover if a theory is correct
- furniture: the moveable items in a room such as chairs, desks, or cabinets
- clay: a type of fine soil or rock
- tuck: to push, fold, or bend something into a particular place

After:

Discuss the story. Ask questions...

- What kind of sandwich do you think the mouse likes the best?
- Do you think the other kids in the class enjoy having the mouse at school? Why or why not?
- What do you think the mouse was thinking when he was covered in purple foam?
- Look at the pictures of the book the mouse wrote. What do you think the book is about? Would you want to read it?
- The mouse goes skateboarding. How many of you know how to skateboard?
- Why did the boy have to take the mouse back to school?

Do

Mouse Friends

Cut out pictures of mice from old magazines or outdated reference books. Ask each child to choose one of the pictures. Then, ask the children to give their mouse a name and then describe their mouse (gender, age, other family, where it lives, hobbies, favorite foods, etc.). If time allows, encourage the children to ask questions.