

The Little House

by Virginia Lee Burton

Caldecott Honor Book (1943). Classic illustrations depict the little house and the ever-changing world around it.



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 a little house that enjoys being in the country. Do any of you live in the country?* 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 who lives in that little house?

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 *The Little House*

- curious: eager to know about something
- buds: an outgrowth on a stem or a branch
- swell: increase in size
- brook: a small freshwater stream
- ripen: to become ripe for eating or harvesting
- carriage: a wheeled platform on which something is carried
- surveyors: somebody whose job is taking accurate measurements of land areas
- tar: a thick black liquid
- tenement: a large building in a city, usually with three or more stories
- trolley: an electric bus that takes its power from overhead wires
- elevated: raised above ground level
- glance: to look at something quickly
- shutters: a hinged cover for a window
- shabby: worn out after long use
- jacked: raised using a hydraulic lift
- cellar: an underground room that is usually used for storage
- foundation: support for a building, usually below the ground
- twinkled: shine with a flicker

After:

Discuss the story. Ask questions...

- Why do you think the little house wondered what it would be like to live in the city?
- Which one of the four seasons – Spring, Summer, Fall, or Winter is your favorite? Why? Which of the four seasons do you think the little house enjoyed the most?
- What happened to the field of daises and the apple trees that used to surround the little house?
- Have any of you ever ridden on trolley car?
- Why did everybody in the city seem to be in a rush?
- What do you think the great-great-granddaughter thought when she saw the little house in the middle of the city?
- Do you think the little house will enjoy her new home out in the country? Do you think the little house will ever miss the city?



Do

City House/Country House

Make a chart listing all the good things about living in the city on one side and all the good things about living in the country on the other.