

Horton Hears a Who!

by Dr. Seuss

A loveable, soft-hearted elephant tries to protect some very tiny creatures – and proves that one person can make a difference.



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 book was released as a movie – has anyone seen it?* 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 elephant is as friendly as he looks?

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 *Horton Hears a Who!*

- faint: feeling weak or dizzy
- yelp: to give a quick, sharp cry
- speck: a very little bit or small spot
- murmured: to speak in a low tone
- steer: to guide
- clover: a plant with tiny flower heads
- sincerely: real and genuine
- sour: grouchy
- keen: sharp and fine
- disturb: to interrupt or bother
- fool: a silly or stupid person
- hustled: to move quickly and hurriedly
- harm: to hurt or cause damage or injury
- Mayor: the chief of a town
- grateful: deeply appreciative of a kindness
- rot: an expression of disgust or disagreement
- nonsense: something absurd or that doesn't make sense
- groans: a low, mournful sound of pain
- tattered: torn and ragged
- battered: to beat or pound
- yapping: to talk in a sharp, shrill manner
- fail: to fall short or be unsuccessful
- peaceable: tranquil and peaceful
- lasso: to catch with a long rope
- vigor: energy and strength
- vim: lively and energetic
- mauled: to handle roughly
- whooped: to cry out with excitement
- racket: loud and noisy
- hullabaloo: a noisy uproar
- shirking: to avoid responsibility or work
- ruckus: a noisy rumpus
- twerp: an insignificant fellow

After:

Discuss the story. Ask questions...

- What was Horton doing when he heard the small noise?
- Who was making the noise?
- Why didn't the kangaroos believe that Horton was talking to someone?
- Did the other jungle animals believe that the *Whos* actually existed?
- Who snatched the clover from Horton?
- Where did the eagle drop the clover?
- What happened to the *Whos* and their town when the eagle dropped them in the clover?
- How many monkeys did it take to capture Horton?
- Was everyone in *Who*-ville making noise?
- What happened when everyone in *Who*-ville made noise?
- Will the kangaroos really help the *Whos*?



Do

Simple Science

Place a 'dust speck' on a microscope slide, look into the microscope and see what is there! Draw a picture of what you see. (Note: It may be necessary to place a drop of water on the speck of dust and place a clear slide cover over it to view it well.)