

Skippyjon Jones

by Judy Schachner

A pun-filled comedy littered with Spanish words and Spanglish accents brought to life with colorful, lively illustrations.



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, *Who can describe what a Siamese cat looks like? A Chihuahua? In what ways are they alike?* 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 that thing with the big ears is a cat or a dog?

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 *Skippyjon Jones*

- self-respecting: belief in your own worth and dignity
- scolded: to speak harshly to another
- lecture: an educational speech
- serious: important
- grouse: a large bird
- guacamole: a mashed avocado served as a dip
- rifled: searched
- bandito: an outlaw
- lonesome: no one or nothing around
- journey: a trip somewhere
- misterioso: unknown (mysterious)
- incognito: in disguise
- decreed: announce officially
- fiesta: a celebration
- siesta: a nap
- outraged: extremely angry
- somber: serious and sad
- declared: announced clearly
- shimmied: wobbled and vibrated
- castanets: a pair of small curved pieces that make a clicking sound
- hovered: flutter in the air without moving
- ruckus: noise
- piñata: a papier-mache container of candy and gifts

After:

Discuss the story. Ask questions...

- Do cats and birds get along?
- Do you hear birds when you wake up?
- Do you have a cat at home? What does your cat like to do?
- How should a cat behave?
- Does Skippyjon look like a Chihuahua?
- Which do you like better – a fiesta or a siesta?
- Do bees make good pets? Why or why not?
- What are your favorite kinds of beans to eat?
- Do you like burritos? Would you like jelly beans in your burritos?



Do

El Skippito Maskito

Make a “maskito” out of paper plate. Draw the outline ahead of time so all the children have to do is color and cut out the eye holes. Thread of a piece of yarn through a tiny hole on each side for securing. When finished, sing Skippyjon’s song:

My name is Skippito Friskito. (clap, clap)

I fear not a single bandito. (clap, clap)

My manners are mellow,

I’m sweet like the Jell-O,

I get the job done, yes indeed-o. (clap, clap)