

Each Peach Pear Plum

by Janet and Allan Ahlberg

Combining the popular children's game, I Spy, with classic nursery rhyme characters creates an adventurous and simple read that will become a class favorite.



Read

Before:

Introduce the book and tell the children a little bit about it. Follow with a comment or question that is related to the story such as, *Have you ever played "I spy" before?* 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 how many different objects there are in the picture?

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 *Each Peach Pear Plum*

- spy: to watch someone or something in secret
- cellar: an underground room used for storage
- hunting: to search carefully for something to try and capture it
- ditch: a narrow channel dug in the ground used for drainage
- den: a room in a house where family members and guests relax

After:

Discuss the story. Ask questions...

- What kinds of fruit were mentioned at the beginning?
- Who was the first person that you were asked to find?
- Where was Tom Thumb sitting?
- Mother Hubbard was in the cellar. Who else was there with her?
- Who was looking at Cinderella through the window?
- Where was Baby Bunting sleeping?
- Bo-Peep was sitting on the well. Who was falling down the hill?
- Who else was in the ditch with Jack and Jill?
- Describe Robin Hood's den.
- Who did the Three Bears find in the river?
- What pie did the Three Bears spy after they rescued Baby Bunting?
- Who ate the pie?

Do

I Spy...

After reading the story, play your own game of I Spy with things found in your classroom, school or local community. If desired, have the students rhyme other words with the specific object being found. For example, "I spy with my little eye something green, brown and tall." If the children answer tree, other rhyming words could be bee-knee-three, etc. The children can also come up with nonsense words, such as, gree, cree, blee, scree, etc.