

Song and Dance Man

by Karen Ackerman



Caldecott winner, 1938. A truly nostalgic, vibrant and heart-warming story of a grandfather who reenacts some of his favorite vaudeville routines for his adoring grandchildren.

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, *Dancing can take many different forms, such as jazz, swing, rock and pop.* 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 where that man's shoes are!

During:

Encourage the children to comment on the illustrations, ask questions, and predict what will happen next in the story. Ask the children to try and remember as you read which animal crawled in the mitten first, second, and so on. 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 *Song and Dance Man*:

- vaudeville: a type of entertainment popular in the late 19th century and early 20th centuries consisting of a variety of singing, dancing and comic acts
- stage: the area in a theater where a performance takes place
- tap shoes: shoes with a metal tip attached to the toe or heel so that it can produce sound when struck on the ground; used for dancing
- steep: sloping very sharply
- faded: to lose brightness, color, or loudness gradually
- bowler hat: a felt hat that is round and hard with a narrow brim
- bow ties: a small necktie tied in a bow at the collar
- spotlight: a strong, focused light thrown upon a particular spot
- woodpecker: a climbing bird with a hard, chisel-like bill that it hammers repeatedly into wood in search of insects
- hanky: a small piece of linen, silk, or other fabric, usually square and used especially for wiping one's nose, eyes, face, etc.
- grand finale: the concluding portion of a performance or entertainment, as a musical show, rodeo, etc.

After:

Discuss the story. Ask questions...

- What kind of man was Grandpa?
- What were the good old days also called?
- Where did Grandpa take the kids before supper?
- Describe the attic.
- What was inside the trunk?
- What did Grandpa wipe his tap shoes with?
- What did Grandpa use as spotlights?
- Describe how Grandpa danced? Was it slow or fast?
- What did Grandpa's new step sound like?
- What did Grandpa pull from somebody's hair?
- What happened when Grandpa pulled the hanky out of his pocket?
- What color is the vest and bowtie that Grandpa was wearing?



Do

The Good Ole' Days - Class Visit

Before: Invite grandparents, parents and other community members that can visit and share their stories about their lives when they were children. Encourage the visitors to bring pictures of themselves as children, along with any memorabilia or items from their past.

After reading the story, talk about what it was like when you, the teacher, were their age. Show pictures, tell stories and, if applicable, reenact your favorite memories. Next, introduce your class visitors. Allow enough time for each person to share his/her story.

After: Create thank you cards for each visitor.