



# The House Takes a Vacation

by Jacqueline Davies

A jovial, imaginative and fun story about what might happen when a family leaves for a vacation and their house decides to explore the world.

## 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, what do you think this story is about? 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 that house is able to walk?*

**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

- sniffed-to breathe in through the nose quickly and briefly
- stuccoed-up-decorative work molded from stucco
- neighborhood-people who live near each other or in the same vicinity
- complained-to express discontent or unhappiness about a situation
- examine-to study or investigate something
- refused-to declare a decision to not do something
- deserted-to leave a place with no one staying behind
- mumbled-to speak or utter something quietly without opening the mouth very much
- gutters-a metal or plastic channel attached to a roof that carries water away
- shingles-a small flat tile, used to cover a roof
- creaked-to make a prolonged squeaking noise
- vast-very great in size or amount
- shifted-to move something to a different position
- uncomfortably-awkward or uneasy
- shattered-to smash into pieces
- twittered-to quiver or move about nervously and quickly
- foundation-the support for a building
- drifted-to be carried along by the flow of water or air
- amateur-somebody with limited skill in or knowledge of an activity



## After:

Discuss the story. Ask questions...

- Why did the house decide to go on holiday?
- Where did the windows want to go? The front door?
- Why did the sunporch want to travel to the sea?
- Who wanted to lead the way? What did the basement do?
- How long did the trip take?
- What happened at night? How did the house feel?
- What insects started to party? How late did the party last?
- How did the house feel the next morning?
- What did the house try to do the next day?
- Describe what happened when the house started to surf.
- What did the sunporch dream about?
- What did the house look like after it returned home from the vacation? How did the family react to seeing the house?

**DO**

### My own house

**You will need:** scissors, glue, markers/crayons and construction paper

After reading the story, hand out the My Own House sheet to each child. Describe each picture and talk about the elements of a house. Allow the children enough time to color, cut and paste their house pieces together on their construction paper.

**If desired:** Allow the children to share with his/her classmates a story about a vacation that their house would take.

