

Read-Aloud Family Event



The Umbrella

by Jan Brett



Book Summary for Facilitator

- ★ Carlos climbs up high in a tree of the rain forest to look for wild animals. He misses seeing them because while he's high in the tree, the animals gather in the umbrella made of leaves, which he left at the base of the tree. Wonderfully detailed illustrations let us peek into this lush tropical environment. We see the animals' activities around the umbrella, as well as small pictures of Carlos climbing and the animals preparing to land in the crowded umbrella.
- ★ Read the book in advance to practice pronouncing the Spanish phrases and names of the rain forest animals — Froggy (a tree frog), Toucan (too' kan'), Kinkajou (king 'kujoo), Tapir (tā'per), Quetzal (ketsāl'), Monkey, Jaguar (jag'wär'), and Hummingbird.

Set the Stage

- ★ Set up a comfortable chair for the reader with wall maps or a globe. There should be plenty of space around the chair for the children to sit on the floor. Have chairs or standing room for parents behind the circle of kids. Explain that this story takes place in a rain forest and describe some of the characteristics of that environment — the constant moisture and rainfall, heavy vegetation, a tropical climate often full of colorful wild animals. Encourage children to look for clues about the rain forest in the pictures as you read. Also name some regions where rain forests are found and note that these are all hot climates that are close to the equator (such as Central and South America). Show a map and point to the United States in comparison to these countries — "They're much warmer than even Florida where some families vacation in the sun."

During Read-Aloud

- ★ Help children say the animals' names and add descriptive words for each. As new animals are added, provide practice by reviewing the names of all the animals — "So now who's in the umbrella?"

Read-Aloud Discussion and Wrap-Up

- ★ After reading the story, conduct a brief discussion and have the children briefly retell the sequence of events. After children mention an event in the story, evaluate that response to see if it's accurate and expand on it by adding details that may have been omitted. Repeat your initial question about that event and encourage children to include some of the expanded details.
- ★ Encourage families to get this book and read it together at home, where they will have time to look more closely at the pictures. They might want to do a Web search for more information about rain forests.

Distribute the bookmarks and *The Family Guide to the Book Fair* to all parents. These can be found at www.scholastic.com/bookfairs/readaloud. Let parents know that these great tools offer reading strategies, tips, and information about how young children learn.

Explain
Explaining new words in context helps build vocabulary.



Retelling
Retelling the sequence of story events strengthens comprehension.

