

Grandfather Buffalo

by Jim Arnosky

Tender but realistic paintings and wise and relevant text combine to tell the story of an old buffalo, as he protects and helps a struggling calf stay up with the moving herd.



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 is something you love to do with your grandfather?* 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 those buffalo are nice?

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 *Grandfather Buffalo*

- herds: large group of animals, that live, feed and travel as a group
- longhorn: reddish cow with long horns
- unborn: not born yet
- pawed: to strike something repeatedly with the paw
- grazing: to eat something continuously
- bleats: make a sheep's noise
- nudging: push or poke somebody
- butted: ram somebody or something
- woolly: covered with hair
- blinding: impairing vision, temporarily can not see

After:

Discuss the story. Ask questions...

- Which buffalo was the strongest?
- Why was the grandfather buffalo so far behind the herd?
- What did he find during his traveling?
- Why did he stomp on the ground and make a loud noise?
- Which buffalo was stumbling and struggling to keep up with the herd?
- Why did the calf lose his mother?
- Who slept with the grandfather buffalo?



Do

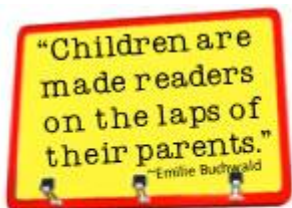
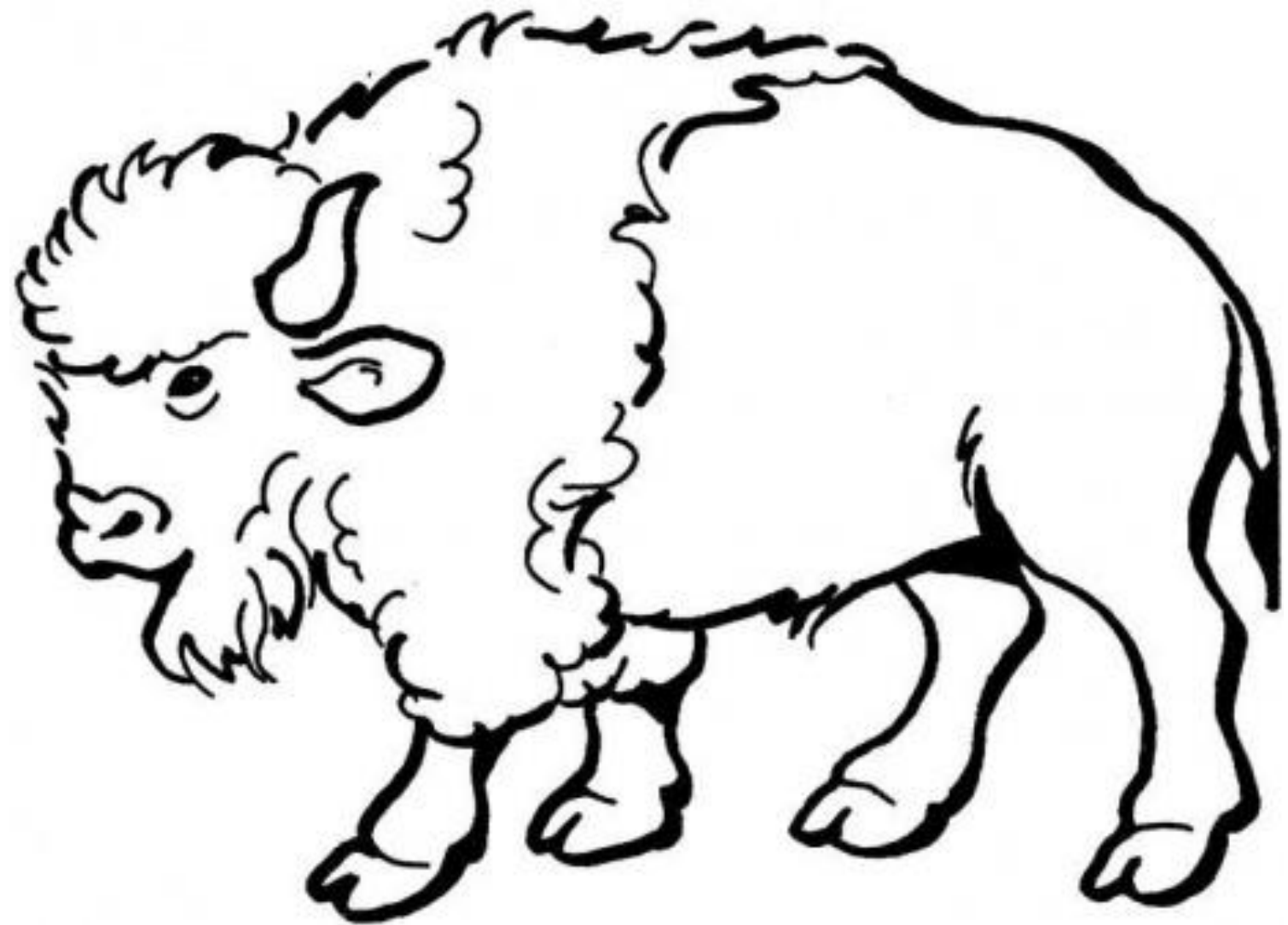
My Own Buffalo

You will need: faux brown fur felt squares or faux brown fur yarn, *My Buffalo* sheet, glue sticks, brown markers or crayons and scissors.

Hand each child the *My Buffalo* sheet, scissors, yarn or felt and a glue stick. First, the children will need to color their buffalo with a brown marker or crayon. Then, the children will cut the felt or yarn into pieces and glue them on the buffalo shape. If desired, the children can glue craft eyes on the buffalo.

My Name: _____

My Buffalo



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