

# The Story of Ferdinand

by Munro Leaf

A true classic with a timeless message, *The Story of Ferdinand* has enchanted readers since it was first published in 1936. This new edition contains the complete original text of the story and the original illustrations with watercolor tones added.



## Read

### Before:

Introduce the book and tell the children a little bit about it. Follow that with a comment or question that is related to the story such as, *Who can tell me what kind of animal was Ferdinand?* 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 why Ferdinand liked to smell the flowers?

### 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 *The Story of Ferdinand*

- favorite: preferred or most liked
- pasture: grass-covered land used for grazing livestock
- cork tree: an evergreen oak whose thick bark is a source of cork
- lonesome: feeling sad, because of being alone
- understanding: a sympathetic recognition of somebody else's situation
- snorting: to make a harsh sound by forcing air through the nostrils
- fierce: showing anger
- banderilleros: a bullfighter's assistant who sticks a dart into the bull during a bullfight
- picadores: a bullfighter on horseback, who attacks the bull with a spear early in the fight
- spears: a long-handled weapon with a blade
- matador: the main bullfighter in a bullfight, whose job is to kill the bull
- cape: a sleeveless outer garment that is fastened at the neck and hangs loosely from the shoulders

## After:

Discuss the story. Ask questions...

- What country did Ferdinand live in?
- Where did Ferdinand sit quietly smelling the flowers?
- Why did Ferdinand's mother worry about him?
- What is Ferdinand's mother called?
- Why was Ferdinand chosen as the fiercest bull for the bull fights?
- What did Ferdinand sit on? What happened?
- What did Ferdinand ride in to the bull fight?
- What did the ladies wear to the bull fight?
- Who was in the parade? Banderilleros? Picadores? Matador?
- What kind of clothes did the matador wear? Red cape? Why?
- What did Ferdinand do when he got in the middle of the ring?
- What happened to Ferdinand when he didn't fight?



**Do**

## Stage a Parade and Bull Fight In Madrid

Have the children dress up and pose as banderilleros, picadores, matadors, and bulls. Act out the parade and actual bull fight in Madrid.