

Barnaby's Bunny

by Wendy Rouillard

A character education book which helps children develop skills and values that enhance their awareness of themselves and others in order to solve real problems and to make good decisions.



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, *How many of you have ever had a bunny for a pet?* 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 the bunny is kissing Barnaby's nose?

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 *Barnaby's Bunny*

- clever: intelligent
- cuddly: nice to hold because of being soft, warm, or cute
- responsibility: somebody or something a person is responsible
- sparkling: reflecting or giving off light in brilliant glittering flashes
- gathered: to come together to form a group
- behavior: the way in which somebody behaves
- announcement: a public statement giving people information or news
- decorate: to make something more attractive
- nervous: easily worried or frightened
- professional: somebody with a high degree of skill or competence
- veterinarian: somebody trained in the medical treatment of animals
- explorer: somebody who travels to unfamiliar places to find out more about them
- choppy: rough, the water broken up into many small waves made by strong winds
- somersaulted: an acrobatic movement in which the body is rolled over, feet over head, either forward or backward

After:

Discuss the story. Ask questions...

- What kind of pet did Barnaby have? What was his name?
- Why did Barnaby bring Baxter to school?
- What kind of classroom pet did the students make? Was it soft or hard-boiled?
- Can you name some of the responsibilities that Barnaby has to do for his dog?
- What did Barnaby want to be when he grows up? What would you like to be?
- Can you name some of the animals that the children made out of their egg?
- What was Barnaby's mother baking at the Main Street Market? Have you ever helped your mother bake cookies?
- How many pets will Barnaby have to take care of now?
- What happened to Barnaby's pet egg? How did he fix the cracked egg?
- What kind of animal did the children get for their classroom pet?



Do

Decorate Your Own Pet Egg & Egg Stand

Teach the children the responsibilities that go along with having a pet. Have them decorate their own pet egg and egg stand (sample egg stands are in the back of this book).