

Polar Bear, Polar Bear, What Do You Hear?

by Bill Martin, Jr.

Splashy jewel-toned artwork along with rhyming and repetitive text make this book an excellent addition to every library.



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, *What sound does a polar bear make?* 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 this polar bear is searching for food?

During:

Encourage the children to comment on the illustrations and ask questions. 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 *Polar Bear, Polar Bear, What Do You Hear?*

- snorting: to force air through the nose
- fluting: to make the sound of a flute
- braying: to make a donkey's sound – high-pitched, raspy bellow
- hoarse: having a rough-sounding voice
- hissing: a sound like a continuous "s"
- trumpeting: a loud, high sound made when an elephant calls
- snarling: an angry growling sound
- yelping: a short sharp high-pitched bark or cry
- bellowing: to shout loudly in a deep voice

After:

Discuss the story. Ask questions...

- What sound does a lion make?
- A hippopotamus makes a snorting sound. What other animals snort?
- Has anyone ever heard a flute? Does a flute make a pretty sound?
- What sound does a zebra and a donkey make?
- What letter of the alphabet makes the hissing sound?
- Do you think that elephants trumpet very often?
- A leopard makes a snarling sound. What other animals snarl?
- Has anyone ever seen a peacock? Did you hear it yelp?
- Do you think a bellowing sound is loud or quiet?
- Does anyone know how to whistle?

Do

What Do You Hear?

Make up another story using your child's name:

You: _____, _____, what do you hear?

Child: I hear a _____.

Some examples your child might use are clock ticking, car honking, or bird singing.