

I Don't Want to Go to School

by Stephanie Blake

An easy-to-read story with simple yet expressive illustrations placed against bright, simple backgrounds.



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 were scared to go to school the first day?* 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 rabbit always wears a cape and a mask?

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 *I Don't Want to Go to School*

- mischievous: behaving in a naughty or troublesome way, but in fun and not meaning serious harm
- alphabet: a set of letters, usually listed in a fixed order, used in writing and language
- tucked: to pull something together
- bravest: having or showing courage
- proud: feeling pleased and satisfied
- recess: a break from classes during the school day
- cafeteria: a self-service restaurant, especially one in a school
- mousse: a light rich dish consisting mostly of whipped cream, eggs, or gelatin that is sweetened to serve as a dessert

After:

Discuss the story. Ask questions...

- Why do you think Simon was scared to go to school?
- Who knows their ABC's?
- Have you ever been unable to sleep because you were worried?
- Which picture of Simon trying to sleep is your favorite?
- On the way to school, what did Simon's father do to help Simon become less afraid?
- What instrument did Simon play at school?
- Why didn't Simon want to go home at the end of the school day?
- What did Simon say to his mother when she told him it was time to go home?

Do

Simon Portraits

Ask the children to examine all the different facial expressions (especially the eyes) of Simon on the inside cover of the book. Give each child a piece of construction paper and ask them to draw their favorite. Collect all the Simon portraits and ask the children to identify the emotion that Simon is showing through his facial expressions in each picture.