

Kindergarten Countdown

by Anna Jane Hays

Easy to read rhymes keep this story flowing smoothly through the seven days before kindergarten starts.



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, *Why do most kids look forward to the first day of school?* 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 what all is in that purple lunchbox?

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 *Kindergarten Countdown*

- patient: capable of waiting without becoming upset
- tissue: piece of absorbent paper that can be used as a handkerchief or a towel
- sneeze: to suddenly, forcefully, and involuntarily expel air through the nose and mouth
- flashy: stylish and expensive-looking in an obvious way
- sneakers: shoes with a rubber sole
- sweater: a warm knitted piece of clothing worn on the upper part of the body
- pokey: really slow
- snail: a small organism with a coiled shell and a retractable muscular foot on which it crawls
- slimy: covered with a fluid that is thick and slippery
- swap: to trade something for something else
- luck: good fortune

After:

Discuss the story. Ask questions...

- Do any of you have a favorite pair of sneakers you like to wear to school?
- Do you have show-and-tell at your school? What are some things you would bring to show-and-tell?
- Has anyone ever eaten a banana sandwich?
- Who can tell me the name of the little girl in the story? How do you know her name?
- The purple cat is on every page in the book. Which picture of the cat is the funniest?

Do

Find the Hidden Objects

On each page of *Kindergarten Countdown*, there are hidden objects that correspond with the number of days until kindergarten. For example, on Monday there are seven goldfish in the fishbowl and there are seven apples in the apple tree. See how many of these hidden objects the children can find on each page.

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