

The Grumpy Dump Truck

by Brie Spangler

When a very grumpy dump truck collides with a joyful porcupine, attitudes are changed and friendships are born in this comic book styled story.



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 do you do when you're grumpy?* 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 made the truck so grumpy?

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 Grumpy Dump Truck*

- mortar: a mixture of sand, water, cement or lime used as a bonding material for bricks
- lousy: unpleasant or unacceptable
- backhoe: a digging machine with a high scoop
- crane: a large machine used to lift or move heavy objects
- foreman: the man in charge of other workers
- bricklayers: somebody who builds with bricks
- axle: shaft on which the wheels turn
- furious: extremely or violently angry
- quills: sharp needle found on a porcupine, covers the entire body of the animal
- mechanic: somebody who repairs machinery
- convinced: to make somebody sure or certain of something

After:

Discuss the story. Ask questions...

- What did Bertrand say when he was grumpy?
- How did the other workers and trucks react to him?
- What did Bertrand run into? What happened to his tire?
- What did the porcupine say to him?
- What did the porcupine do to Bertrand's tire?
- What things did the porcupine find in the tire?
- How did that make Bertrand feel?
- What was everyone working together to build?



Do

Dump Sight Table

You will need: a sand/water table, potting soil or regular dirt, gardening tools, toothpicks, toy trucks and other small objects easily buried.

Fill the sand/water table with potting soil or with regular dirt. Bury different objects (small tools, small toys, toothpicks, etc) in the dirt and allow the children enough time to dig and search for the buried items. Once all the items have been found, either switch groups or allow the current group to explore and have free play. Leave the dirt in the sand/water table for the rest of the week or month to allow for free play and exploration.