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Activity Guide

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Make Way For Ducklings

ABOUT THE STORY

A family of mallards searching for a suitable site for a home come upon what proves to be (after a period of somewhat harried adjustments) the perfect location – the Boston Public Gardens.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

A native Ohioan who explored the worlds of music and mechanics' before settling on an art career, Robert McCloskey is one of America's most successful and popular creators of children's books. The first person to be twice awarded the Caldecott Medal (for *Make Way for Ducklings* and *Time of Wonder*), he also brought into being the endearing and enduring *Homer Price*. Other titles by Mr. McCloskey include *Blueberries for Sal* (available as Live Oak Readalong) and *One Morning in Maine*.

ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

Allan Yeager is a teacher of the first grade at Waldo Rohnert School in Rohnert Park, California. The author of a resource book, *Using Picture Books with Children*, Mr. Yeager has lectured and written for professional journals. He lives in San Francisco.

INTRODUCING THE STORY

Have you ever seen a nest full of eggs? Where was it? What color were the eggs? How big were they? Where do you think the mother bird was? This book tells the story of Mr. And Mrs. Mallard and the eight ducklings that hatched from the eggs in their nest.

READING ACTIVITIES

Comprehension/Thinking Skills

Duplicate and distribute the sentences below. Have the children number the events from the story in order 1-6.

- _____ Michael the policeman, helped the family of ducks across the road.
- _____ Mr. And Mrs. Mallard were looking for a place to live.
- _____ Mr. And Mrs. Mallard and their ducklings live together on their own little island in the Public Gardens.
- _____ Mrs. Mallard laid eight eggs in a nest that she and Mr. Mallard built.
- _____ Mrs. Mallard taught the ducklings how to swim and dive.
- _____ One day the ducklings hatched out.

Vocabulary

On the chalkboard, write the following words from the story. Ask the children to name synonyms for the words. Ask the children to name synonyms for the words. Look up the words in dictionary and compare the definition with the words the children list.

strange	delighted	satisfied
enormous	horrid	beckoned
polite	cozy	proud

CROSS-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Music/Language Arts: Quack, Quack, Quack

Have children share any songs they know about duck. One that is well known is "Five Little Ducks". Words for the song follow. Encourage children to perform the song, adding hand movement. Add more verses that the children make up themselves.

Five (four, three, two one) little ducks went swimming one day/Over the hill and far away/ Mother Duck called, "Quack, quack, quack, quack,"/But only four (three, two, one no) little ducks came swimming back....
Old Mother Duck went swimming one day/Over the hills and far away/Mother Duck called, "Quack, quack, quack, quack"/And all the little duck came swimming back!

Science/Art: No Place Like Home

Give children a blank piece of paper and ask them to draw a new home for the ducklings. Guide them to include all aspects of shelter that the ducks would need to survive, such as being safe from enemies, easy access to food, a dry and comfortable area, etc. Hang the pictures around the classroom after children have had a chance to share their ideas with each other.

INTERNET ACTIVITY

Before you send children to do research using any of the keywords listed below, you may wish to try them yourself to be sure the sites are suitable.

The ducks were forced to move because their home was in danger. Children can find out more about conservation of wetlands, home to many water animals including ducks, by trying out the following website:

National Wildlife Federation: www.nwf.org.

For information on ducks and wetlands: www.ducks.org/puddler/index.html

For information on ducks and other aquatic animals:

www.mobot.org/MBCnet/fresh/animals/index.htm