



www.liveoakmedia.com

Activity Guide

800-788-1121

Whistle for Willie

Live Oak Readalongs are protected by copyright. The components in Live Oak Readalongs may not be reproduced in any form by any means without prior written permission from Live Oak Media.

ABOUT THE STORY

Peter desperately wants to summon his dog, Willie, by whistling – but he can't whistle. It is only after he has tried, and tried again that Peter finally realizes his greatest wish.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR/ ILLUSTRATOR

Both popular and prolific, Ezra Jack Keats is one of America's best-known creators of children's books. Peter, the little boy in *Whistle for Willie*, appears in several of Mr. Keats' other books and was first introduced in *The Snowy Day*, which won the Caldecott Medal.

INTRODUCING THE STORY

Remind children that when they were very small, they learned to walk by practicing and practicing some more. Ask them what else they learned to do by themselves. Encourage volunteers to describe their efforts. Then tell them that this book is about Peter, a little boy who learns to do something by himself.

READING ACTIVITIES

Comprehension/Thinking Skills

- “When Peter went inside the cartoon, what did he want to do?”
- “When Peter went into his house, why did he put on his father's hat?”
- “What was the pretending game Peter and his mother played?”
- “Where was Peter when he whistled the first time?”
- “How do you think Peter felt when he tried to whistle but couldn't?” (Draw conclusions)
- “Why do you think Peter felt when he finally whistled?” (Make inferences)

Vocabulary

Write these words from the story on the chalkboard. Review with the children the definitions of *noun* and *verb*. Ask volunteers to define each word and then tell if it is a noun or verb.

Peter	whistled	drew
whirled	sidewalk	corner
mirror	raced	carton

CROSS-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Whistling a Happy Tune

Ask children to practice whistling a tune they have sung in a classroom or in music. Volunteers can whistle their tunes for the group, and the others can try to identify the tune that is whistled.

Science: Dog Breeds

Willie is a kind of dog-called dachshund. Ask children to find information on their favorite breed of dog. Children can write down information on the breed they have chosen and report on what they have learned to the group.

Health: Step-by-Step

Point out to children that Peter learned to whistle by working hard at it and practicing. Have them think of something they have learned to do, such as ride a bike, fix a meal, or train a pet. Ask them to write a paragraph of instructions, telling step by step exactly how to do the activity. Encourage them to put the steps in the proper order and to be sure they have included all the necessary steps. Collect the paragraphs in a booklet titled “How To Do Anything”.

Language Arts: Matching Contractions

Print on small cards the following contractions from the story and on the other cards the two words each contraction stands for. Each child can pick a card. Have children match each contraction card with the card that has the appropriate pair of words by finding the classmate holding the matching card.

couldn't	could not
he's	he is
wouldn't	would not
it's	it is
I've	I have
I'll	I will

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.

Wonderful Dachshunds

Ask children to use the keyword *dachshunds* to find websites about these funny little dogs. Many of the sites include photographs of the owners' dogs. Children can print out a photo of a dog they especially like. Collect all the pictures in a book of dachshund photos.