

Minnesota Storytime
Reading Guide

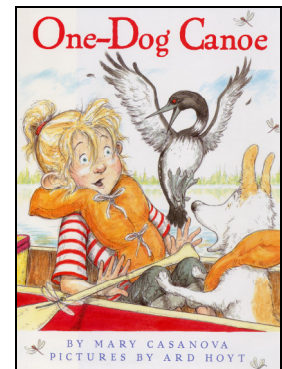
Title: *One-Dog Canoe*

Author: Mary Casanova

Illustrator: Ard Hoyt

Publisher and Copyright Date: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2003

Connection to Minnesota: Minnesota author, Minnesota setting



Summary: This is a story of a canoe trip in the North Woods of Minnesota. It begins as a trip for a young girl and her dog but soon becomes a trip for many animals that can be found in Minnesota including a loon, a wolf, and a moose. When finally a frog attempts to join, the group canoe trip ends, but results in some fun splashing for all. It also allows the girl and her dog to travel on – just the two of them.

Suggested ages: 4-6

Tips for Reading:

- Exaggerate the rhyming language as you read. For example, “I swished past ferns where dragonflies **flew**. Loon stretched her wings, “Can I come **too**?”
- Draw out the descriptive words that proceed the rhymes as well. “Sw--ish—ed” and “Str—e—tched”.
- Share personal experiences from canoe trips, especially stories of flipping a canoe (if you have any).

Questions before reading:

- Have you ever ridden in a canoe? (Show illustration of a canoe)
- Why do you think it is important to stay sitting in a canoe rather than standing?
- How many people do you think you could fit into a canoe?
- Would you like to go for a canoe ride with one person or with a group? Why?

To Introduce this story say: We’re going to read a book about a little girl, her dog, and a canoe. They start their canoe trip by themselves but then others want to join them. Let’s see what happens.

**Questions
After Reading:**

- Why does the girl tell the beaver that her canoe is a “one-dog canoe”?
- Do all the animals in this story live in Minnesota? Have you ever seen any of them? Where?
- All of the animals want to get in the canoe and go for a ride. Why might the girl want to go on a canoe ride with just her dog?
- When all of the animals come along on the canoe ride what happens? How does the girl feel?
- Do you have brothers and sisters? Do you sometimes get to spend time alone with your mom or dad?
- Do your brothers and sisters want to come along? What happens when they come along?

RELATED ACTIVITIES

Art:

- Draw a picture of a canoe and who or what you would take along on a canoe trip.

Dramatization:

- Act out the story. The children can play the parts of different animals in the story.
- Act out different action words used in the story, teetered/tottered/hopped/climbed/dropped/leap/etc.

Science:

- Make “canoes” to float in a basin of water and discuss how many toys/pencils/etc. you can put in the canoe before it will sink.

Other:

- Plan an activity to do with your parent(s) without other family members – maybe ten minutes of sharing a book or a walk around the neighborhood, etc.

**Suggestions for
English Language
Learners:**

- Look through the pictures in the book together. Identify in English as many things as you can on a page or two.
- Make a list of animals from the story with the children. Practice saying/reading the names of the animals.
- Ask children which animals from their home country might want to go along for a ride in a canoe.

Related Books:

- ***The Mitten*** by Jan Brett (Penguin Putnam, Inc., 1989)
- ***If You Give a Mouse a Cookie*** by Laura Joffe Numeroff, illustrated by Felicia Bond (HarperCollins, 1985)
- ***Guess How Much I Love You*** by Sam McBratney, illustrated by Anita Jeram (Candlewick Press, 1995)

