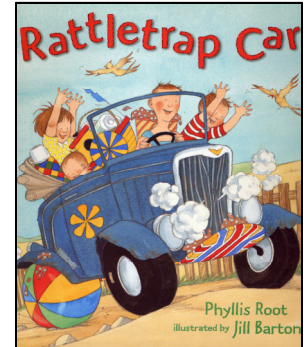


Minnesota Storytime
Reading Guide

Title: *Rattletrap Car*
Author: Phyllis Root
Illustrator: Jill Barton
Publisher and Copyright Date: Candlewick Press, 2001
Connection to Minnesota: Minnesota author



Summary: This is a fictional story about a family trying to get to the lake on a hot day in an old broken down (rattletrap) car. The car continually breaks down on the way to the beach and the family creatively repairs the car and keeps going until they reach the beach.

Suggested ages: 0-3, 4-6

- Tips for Reading:**
- Emphasize the sing-song format of the book for dramatic effect when reading.
 - Stop at points in the book when the car has broken down and ask if the children can suggest a way to fix the car.
 - Talk about the illustrations and the expressions on the faces of the children and their father as the car breaks down and starts going again. Ask the children to notice the expressions the characters have. Could you read this book without the words?
 - Read the story a second time and ask the children to make the noises with you.
- Questions before reading:**
- How do you keep cool in the summer time?
 - Have you ever had a car that did not run so well?
 - Talk about a time when you fixed something with your mom or dad.

To Introduce this story say: We're going to read a story about a family trip to the beach on a hot day. Unfortunately, the car they take to the beach keeps breaking down. Listen and watch how they keep the car going.

**Questions
After Reading:**

- Did you expect the car to keep moving after all the problems that the characters had?
- Do you think the car will run for a while or continue to break down? Will they make it home again?
- Do the noises in the book sound like a car? How does a car sound?
- Describe how the family worked together to fix their car.
- What are some other ways to get where you are going? How does your family travel together?

RELATED ACTIVITIES

Art:

- Melt marshmallows (or use marshmallow cream) and build a car using food items (e.g. Oreos for the wheels) or other building materials (e.g. popsicle sticks, yarn, cardboard.)

Language:

- Tell (or write) a story about a funny ride or a trip you have taken with family or friends.

Music:

- Read the story as a song and have the children practice singing with you.

**Suggestions for
English Language
Learners:**

- While reading the book use as many gestures and facial expressions as you can to emphasize the action of the story. For example: fan yourself while reading “hot, hot, hot”.
- Go back through the book looking at the illustrations. Ask children why each object will help. For example: The wheel is broken. They use a beach ball. Why? Children will use their language skills to explain or show that they do not understand or do not have the language to explain. You can give a short sentence to explain too.

Related Books:

- ***Down by the Cool of the Pool*** by Tony Mitton, illustrated by Guy Parker-Rees (Scholastic, 2002)
- ***Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs*** by Judith Barrett, illustrated by Ron Barrett (Simon & Schuster, 1982)
- ***Vroomaloom Zoom*** by John Coy, illustrated by Joe Cepeda (Crown Books for Young Readers, 2000)

