

The Early Years Count Literacy Connection



The Hueys in What's the Opposite?

Written and Illustrated by
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Infant/Toddler edition
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Overview of Book

One Huey starts a conversation by asking another Huey, "What's the opposite of the beginning?" When the second Huey hesitates, the helpful Huey moves ahead by introducing more opposites to his friend. The Hueys explore the concept of opposites in their characteristically quirky way. Starting out with easy ones like "up" and "down," they move on to ever more imaginative examples.

Genre: Concept based

Vocabulary

Books are a rich source of words new to children. Here are some words from *The Hueys in What's the Opposite?* to introduce in your classroom:

opposite	beginning
down	high
unlucky	lucky
light	heavy

Each time you read the book, highlight 2 or 3 words.

Use age- appropriate definitions and/or refer to the illustrations to help children understand each word's meaning.

Use the new words throughout the day, reminding children, "That's a word from our story!"

Connecting with HighScope Curriculum

COR Advantage 1.5

Science and
Technology
Item BB
(Observing and
classifying)

Language, Literacy
and Communication
Item M
(Listening and
comprehension)

Reading Tips

Use the illustrations to prompt conversations about emotion. On various pages, one of the Hueys looks perplexed, excited, sad, bewildered and happy.

Before turning the page when the word is "down," ask the children, "What do you think is going to happen to the tree?" Raise your voice level for one word and then lower it for the opposite word.

Three readings are recommended to familiarize children with the story. During each reading the adult can introduce new vocabulary words, pose open-ended questions, and engage children in activities that make the story "come alive."

Throughout the Routine

Refer to the book throughout the day and use new vocabulary words in meaningful ways. Active engagement with the story helps the content come alive.

During **Large Group**, play a version of Simon says that encourages children to think about opposites. (Jump high/low, keep arms still/wiggle arms, move slowly/fast.)

During **Small Group**, invite children to explore different materials to learn about opposites. Ask children to create opposite sets of items. Encourage them to look at size, shape, color, and texture. Ask questions and engage children in discussions that encourage them to notice differences.

Around the Room

Highlight the book's content and build on the children's excitement in a variety of locations.

Post photos around the room of obvious opposites. Use the photos to prompt conversation about the concepts.

Intentionally place "opposite" objects next to each other: large and small blocks, light and heavy pans.

Have conversation during choice time about opposites.

Put *The Hueys in What's the opposite?* on display in the **book area** so the children can easily find it on their own.

Open-ended Questions

Enhance active engagement and early critical thinking skills by asking open-ended questions. These "wondering aloud" questions support children's developing focus and attention as they encourage young children's capacity to make connections and see possibilities.

Here are some questions you might ask for *The Hueys in What's the Opposite?*:

What do you like to do when it's cold? Hot?

What helps you feel better when you are sad?

What do you think the expression on his face is telling us?

For more information on how to use books and stories with children to enhance your curriculum, contact **The Family Connection:**

website—
www.famconn.org

Facebook—
[@famconnsjc](https://www.facebook.com/famconnsjc)

phone—
574-237-9740

@ Home

Since many children in our county will have this book at home, use it to further the home-school connection. In your daily contact—in person or by text, email or other notes home—encourage families to share *The Hueys in What's the Opposite?* with their children. Here's a sample message you can send:

We hope you've been enjoying *The Hueys in What's the Opposite?* with your child. Whenever you have a new book, it's okay just to take your time and enjoy the book the first time you read it. The next time you read, you might talk about a new word or ask a question about what might happen next. For this book, help your child understand what opposites are by using the contrasts the Hueys show in this story. Build on the concept of opposites in this book by looking around your home for an object or situation and ask your child what they think the opposite is.