

The Early Years Count Literacy Connection



Daniel Finds a Poem

Written and illustrated by
Micha Archer

Preschool edition

Overview of Book

A young boy sees a sign at the park, "Poetry in the Park, Sunday at 6:00." Over the week, with the help of many animal friends, Daniel tries to discover what poetry is. On Sunday when he awakes, he's happy that this is the day for Poetry in the Park. He even has a poem to share. What do you think it will be?

Genre: Picture book, fiction

Vocabulary

Books are a rich source of words new to children. Here are some from *Daniel Finds A Poem* to introduce in your classroom:

sign	cattails
glisten	twilight
days of the week	reflecting

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

Use age-appropriate definitions and/or the illustrations to help children gain an understanding of each word's meaning.

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

Connecting with the HighScope Curriculum

COR Advantage 1.5

Approaches to Learning
Item A (*Initiative and planning*)

Social and Emotional
Development
Item D (*Emotions*)
Item F (*Building relationships with other children*)

Language, Literacy and
Communication
Item L (*Speaking*)
Item Q (*book enjoyment and knowledge*)

Reading Tips

Let the group know, "This is a book about a boy just your age who makes a decision to find out what poetry is so he can share a poem at the park. Let's find out how he did that!" As you read the animal friends' responses to Daniel, linger on what each says. Ask the children to close their eyes and imagine the comment. Remind them, "Poetry has a way of making a picture in your mind. Do you have one?"

Three readings are recommended to familiarize children with the story. Each reading provides an opportunity to introduce new vocabulary words, pose open-ended questions, and engage children in activities that make the story "come alive."

At the end of each reading, display the book in the book area so children can read it on their own.

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.

For **Large Group Time**, make cards showing pictures of Daniel's animal friends (squirrel, chipmunk, spider, turtle, frog, cricket, owl). Have children select a card and move like one of the animals.

Provide natural materials at **Small Group** and encourage children to create structures. Include leaves, twigs, bark, etc...

At **Greeting Time** ask, "Do you know what poetry is?" Ask before the first read and after. Record responses and compare.

Around the Room

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

Add natural materials (from Small Group activity) to the **Art Area** and encourage children to incorporate them into their creations.

Introduce other poetry books such as *Here's a Little Poem*, *Where the Sidewalk Ends*, *Hip Hop Speaks to Children*, *The Swing*, or *The Neighborhood Mother Goose* and place them in the **Book Area**.

Post and label photos of local parks in the **House Area**.

Open-ended Questions

Enhance active engagement and early critical thinking skills by asking open-ended questions. These questions encourage children to explain why or how things happen, make predictions, or brainstorm possibilities rather than give one "right" answer.

Here are some questions you might ask for *Daniel Finds A Poem*:

If you could ask an animal a question, what would you ask and why?

What does poetry mean to you?

What do you like to do at the park?

How did Daniel make his poem?

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

phone—
574-237-9740

@ Home

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

We've been reading *Daniel Finds a Poem* and talking a lot about poetry—that it sometimes rhymes, that it often offers new words, that it helps us to handle feelings, and that it helps us to notice and imagine. When you are with your child, notice beauty like the sun coming in a window, a bird chirping, or a favorite piece of music. Smile and whisper, "See/hear that? How does that make you feel?" As you read the story, imagine together what the animals say. For example, "Let's think of sun-warmed sand. What would you do if you were where there was some sun-warmed sand?" Enjoy the natural conversations this book can begin.