

In the Tall, Tall Grass

Author & Illustrator: **Denis Fleming**

Materials

- rubber bands of various lengths and thicknesses stretched across an open side of cardboard boxes of various sizes to make "instruments" for strumming
- oatmeal boxes and other round containers to form simple "drums"
- for tugging, a pillowcase filled with enough books (or other items) to make it tug-heavy
- for lugging, a pillowcase half-filled with soft-cover books to sling over the shoulder
- sheets of white paper and green paper
- glue sticks
- markers
- crayons or colored pencils

Activities

Strum, drum, hum. Tug and lug. Have children create "instruments" that strum and drum, or ask them to become themselves instruments that hum. Have them imitate the animals or insects depicted in the book.

Ask children to pretend they are ants, and to show what it means to tug at something, or lug something that is heavy. How would they skitter? Scurry?

The children may also enjoy a tall grass discovery activity. Have them cut long, slender pieces of green paper unevenly. Help them glue one end of them to the bottom of a larger piece of white paper to resemble tall grass. Then ask the children, "What other creatures might you find in tall grass? Draw them on (or behind) your grass collage." (Some ideas are worms, mosquitoes, grasshoppers, ladybugs, spiders, aphids, mice.)

Sometimes people lose things outdoors. Ask the children if they have ever lost something in the grass? Ask them what, besides animals and insects, they might find in tall grass. Have them draw one lost item in their collage.

Older children can think of appropriate descriptive words to write on their tall grass discovery collage.

Try these questions after the activity: What sounds would you hear in your tall grass on a warm summer day? What would you do to make your tall grass collage a night time picture? What words would you put on your night time collage?

Joel Says

Before the book is read, ask...

What is happening in the picture on the front cover of the book? Do you have tall grass near your house? Have you ever walk through tall, tall grass? What was it like?

Stop during the reading and ask...

What are the animals or insects doing? What do you think about the sound of the words used to describe what the animals and insects are doing?

After reading the book, ask...

Why do you think the artist put the little caterpillar on the front and back covers and on each page of the book? Did you like the words in the book? Think of two rhyming words that tell how something looks or sounds. Make some up!