

Black Cat

Author & Illustrator:
Christopher Myers
Scholastic Inc.

Materials

Poster board, construction paper, magazines, scissors, glue sticks, markers.

Activities

Ask the children to cut pictures from the magazines to make a collage of some things and places they see in their neighborhood or on their way home at

the end of the day (e.g. the buildings, cars, parks, people, landmarks and interesting things in their neighborhoods).

Encourage the children to use their collages to explain to the others how to get to their favorite places. Ask them if there is anything they see on their way home that is special to them or unique to the neighborhood. Have the child point out that special place on the collage.

Go exploring on an afternoon walk. Before you start, show the children the special places they will see in their walk by holding up the collages in order. Walk to these special places (park, library, playground, statue). Ask the children if they, like Black Cat, consider this special place part of their home.



Book! Book! Book!

Author: **Deborah Bruss**
Illustrator: **Tiphonie Beeke**
Scholastic Inc.

Materials

Farm animal puppets or stuffed animals.

Activities

Ask the children if they can spell "chicken." Then teach them the C-H-I-C-K-E-N song:
C - that's the way it begins,
H - that's the next letter in,
I - that is the third,
C - that's the fourth letter in that bird,
K - that's a-filling it in,
E - getting near the N.
C-H-I-C-K-E-N!

That is the way to spell chicken!
(From *Musical Games for Children of All Ages* by Esther Nelson)

Joel Says

Before the book is read, ask...
Where do you call home? What things do you see on your way home from school?

Stop during the book and ask...
Where do you think Black Cat is going? Have you seen any of these places in your neighborhood?

After reading the book, ask...
Does Black Cat have a home like you? Do you think Black Cat likes where he lives? How can you tell?

Next show the children how to finger spell the individual letters C-H-I-C-K-E-N in American Sign Language, and then teach them the sign for "chicken." Share with them library sources (below) for sign language instruction. In addition to those books, you can also use the American Sign Language Browser (<http://commtechlab.msu.edu/sites/aslweb/browser.htm>) on the Internet, which features video clips of the signing motions of words and letters.

Good resource books: *Sign Language for Kids: A Fun & Easy Guide to American Sign Language* by Lora Heller; *Sign Language* by Karen Price Hossell; *You Can Learn Sign Language! More than 300 Words in Pictures* by Jackie Kramer; *My First Book of Sign* by Pamela J. Baker; *Signing for Kids* by Mickey Flodin; *My First Book of Sign Language* by Joan Holub; *Signing is Fun* by Mickey Flodin.

For more fun, have the children use puppets or stuffed animals to act out the book while you read it. Children can join in to make the sounds of the animals at the library.

Joel Says

Before the book is read, ask...

What do you like to do when you're bored? What are your favorite kinds of books at the library? Who has their very own library card?

Stop during the book and ask...

How can the animals let the librarian know what they want? Can the librarian help you find books at the library?

After reading the book, ask...

At the end of the book the animals are reading together. Whom do you like to read with?

