



A Birthday in the Woods

By Lynn Salem and Josie Stewart

12 pages/199 words



Synopsis

The little girl with long blonde curls seems like any girl preparing for her birthday party. However, her guests are the three bears each presenting a gift that brings the tale full circle.

Before the First Page

Have the students create a quick list of the many ways they prepare for a birthday party. Share the lists. Reinforce the language of the book as students share their lists, i.e., **planned the games, hung balloons.**

Set-Up for Success

For a detailed introduction, as students survey the pictures, use the specific vocabulary or phrases from the book. Example: "...**who lived in a cottage in the woods.**"

Independent Reading – Students may need support with **cottage**, page 2; **right**, page 3; **large**, page 8.

Guided Reading – Review the suggestions for *Independent Reading*. Include support for **white** and **yellow**, page 8; **heard**, page 10.

Learning about Print

- Punctuation marks – period, comma, quotation mark, exclamation point, apostrophe used in contractions.
- Environmental print – calendar, page 1; invitation, page 2; mailbox, page 3; music book, page 4; milk, page 7.

Learning about Words

The vocabulary in this book provides opportunities to introduce, practice or enrich the following:

- Sound of **g** – **giant**.
- Word endings – **invitations, mailed, friends, played, hats, balloons, streamers, baked, frosting, candles, hardly, finally.**
- Compound words – **birthday, everything, someone.**
- Blends – **three, streamers, frosting, sleep.**
- Silent letters – **write, wrote, right.**
- Word segments – **invitation, began, planned, dance, piano, candles, friends, shouted.**

Key Words and Phrases

So the little girl Her she
mother

Assessment Opportunities

The following problem-solving behaviors can be observed and recorded:

- Using self-monitoring strategies.
- Using word segments to solve unfamiliar words.
- Reading high frequency words easily.
- Reading in meaningful phrases.
- Increasing fluency as the meaning is constructed.
- Reading the punctuation.
- Retelling the story using some of the story language.

After the Last Page

- Use the tape recorder to tell about the birthday party with Goldilocks and The Three Bears. Illustrate as a book to give to a kindergarten class.
- Create puppets for Goldilocks and The Three Bears.
- Write a new adventure for Goldilocks and The Three Bears.
- Write invitations to a birthday party.
- Plan a class party for a book character.
- In the creative dramatics center, create Goldilocks' cottage.

Throughout the Day

Math

- Count the number of days left until each child's birthday. Compare.
- Measure the ingredients to bake a cake. Practice measuring the ingredients using water. Double the ingredients. Record the amounts needed.

Problem-Solving

- * If you are having 5 guests and each guest will receive 3 party favors, how many party favors will you need? Draw a picture to solve the problem.

Social Studies

- Read a book about friendship.

Science

- Study the effect of heat. Example: What happens to a candle? To cake batter?

Art

- Design birthday cards.

The Home Connection

- Keep a family calendar. Mark the dates of all the special occasions in your family.
- Interview parents about what they did to celebrate birthdays when they were their child's age.
- Bake a cake together.
- Write a letter to a family member or a friend.

* Show What You Know – a document to keep

Activities marked with an asterisk (*) are appropriate for assessment.

Read On...

Carle, Eric. *The Secret Birthday Message*.

Clifton, Lucille. *Don't You Remember?*

Frasier, Debra. *On the Day You Were Born*.

Hutchins, Pat. *Happy Birthday, Sam*.

Livingston, Myra Cohn. *Birthday Poems*.

McGovern, Ann. *Happy Silly Birthday to Me*.

Peek, Merle. *Mary Wore Her Red Dress and Henry Wore His Green Sneakers*.

Rice, Eve. *Bennie Bakes a Cake*.

Rylant, Cynthia. *Birthday Presents*.

Zolotow, Charlotte. *Mr. Rabbit and the Lovely Present*.

