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# Spotty's Adventure

Theme: pets



Have you ever had a pet rabbit? What do you know about rabbits? I am sure you know that they are small, furry, and cute. We all know that they move by hopping and they love carrots, but what do rabbits like to do all day?

I want you to picture a black and white rabbit with black ears, a white face, and a black spot near his mouth. That's Spotty! Guess how he got his name. That's right, because of the black spot on his face. He's one crazy rabbit! \*

Spotty is a pet rabbit who has an unusual life. He doesn't live in a burrow in the ground. Instead, he lives in an office. He gets to run around all day.\* He has a cage he can go into when he needs to visit his litter box or just take a little nap. However, he really likes to run around the office most of the day.\*

Spotty loves people! If you visited the office, he would greet you at the door and run around your feet! Of course, he would be thinking, "Pick me up, please!" Sometimes, he gets to play in the yard when other animals are not around. He runs so fast! He likes to nibble on the grass, hop into the air, and lay flat on his belly.\*

Most of all, Spotty likes playing with people. You see, he thinks people are just big rabbits! I know it sounds crazy, but it's true. He follows people around in the office all the time! His favorite thing to do, in fact, is to hop up onto people's laps while they are working on their computers. Can you picture it? \* It's a problem sometimes, since he then jumps onto their desks. What do you think Spotty accidentally does? You guessed it. He accidentally erases some of the work the people are doing on their computers. They don't mind since they were smart and saved their work along the way. It always makes them laugh and smile. Can you picture it?\*

One day, Spotty decided to go play outside. He was doing his usual "happy hops" when a frog jumped out of the bushes. Spotty had not ever seen a frog before. He froze! He didn't know what to do. You won't believe what that silly rabbit did! He started running around the frog in circles! \* It seemed like Spotty was trying to make friends with the frog the way he did with the people in the office. The people laughed so hard! Spotty had to be the friendliest bunny around!

Just then, as Spotty was circling the frog for the third time, the frog jumped up. It landed right on Spotty! What a shock! Spotty ran right back into the office, jumped on his box, and hid in his cage. The frog just sat there. It was hard to tell which animal was more scared!

Everybody went back inside to see what Spotty was doing. Spotty slowly came out and waited for someone to pick him up. Five minutes later, he was fast asleep in someone's arms. That little adventure truly wore him out! Everyone smiled and someone said, "I bet he's dreaming about running in the sun without any frogs around!" \*

# Interactive Read-Alouds

Comprehension begins at the listening stage. Children understand what they hear before they understand what they read. That is why research supports reading aloud to children books and stories that are above their reading level. Reading aloud builds vocabulary, models thinking aloud, and models phrasing and fluency. This activity takes reading aloud a step further by including rhymed phrases that children will then use to apply the repeated oral reading strategy. The structure of this activity will keep children actively listening.

**Strategies:** repeated oral reading, modeled fluency, choral reading, active listening

## Materials

- overhead projector/ transparencies or chart paper (optional)

## Directions

1. Choose one story, and make one copy of the reproducible. Copy a class set of the corresponding rhymed phrases. Or, as an option, make an overhead transparency of the reproducible or write the rhymed phrases on the board or chart paper.
2. NOTE: Do not photocopy the story for children. This activity is designed to build children's listening comprehension. They need to hear phrasing and fluency modeled by you in order to replicate it in their own reading.
3. Give each child a copy of the rhymed phrases, or display the phrases so all the children can see them. Read aloud the phrases, and have children practice reading them. Tell children that you will read aloud a story and that they will read aloud the rhymed phrases each time you point to them. (Point to the class each time you see an asterisk in the story.)
4. For "The Shopping Trip" on page 17, invite the class to fill in the blank at the end of the story. For "Wonderful Whales" on page 19, gather a plastic zippered bag, three or four rocks, a tub that is  $\frac{2}{3}$  full of water, a spoon, and shortening for each small group of children. Invite children to perform the experiment in the story as you read aloud the story. Write the limerick at the bottom of the story on chart paper or the board so all children can read it.
5. Read aloud the story. Model good phrasing, intonation, and fluency.
6. Throughout the story, stop at each asterisk, point to the children, and have them read the rhymed phrases, with increased fluency each time.

## Extension

Many of the rhymed phrases lend themselves to movements. Make up silly movements that children can do as they read their part. This will maximize active listening. Try movements such as clicking tongues, clapping, stomping feet, moving hands like waves in the ocean, moving hands up together and then parting them in opposite ways, nodding heads, hopping, turning around, and cross-lateral movements.

# Spotty's Adventure

Rhymed Phrases

I can picture Spotty playing in the sun.

I can picture Spotty having so much fun.

Run Spotty, run Spotty, run in the sun!



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