

Background Knowledge = Good Reader

Why is building background knowledge important for your child? Good readers constantly try to make sense out of what they are reading by seeing how it fits with what they know. The more exposure to different topics a child has, the easier it will be for him to make connections to a variety of texts.

This month, one of our books is Spring Babies. On the cover is a dandelion. If your child is not familiar with what a dandelion is, it will be hard for him to connect with the text. Knowing a dandelion is a flower prior to reading the story will help your child understand it.

Before reading a story, look at the cover, read the title, and do a “picture walk through.” This tells you what background knowledge your child has before reading and gives you time to talk about what he might not understand. Using teachable moments (go outside to see a dandelion) or Googling images to help your child understand a topic will build strong reading readiness skills.



**Thanks to
the Khan's
for being
part of the
Ferst
Family!**

Kristin Khan recently contacted Ferst Readers explaining how much she appreciated Ferst's impact on her and her family. Her two boys, Eli and Caleb, both grew up with Ferst books and loved reading them with Kristin and her husband, especially when he was not deployed or in the field. Keep reading to learn more about their story!

Pictured from left: Caleb and Eli Khan

Easy Rainbow Nilla Bites

You Will Need:

- Nilla Wafers
- Rainbow Sprinkles
- Creamy Peanut Butter
- Nutella
- Banana



Directions:

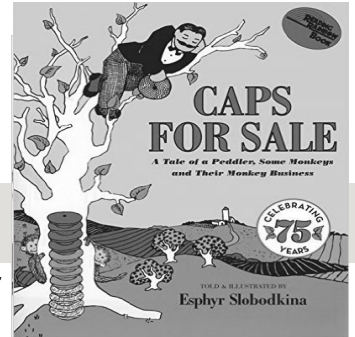
1. Peel and slice banana into thin disks.
2. Place one Nilla wafer upside down and spread on a thin layer of creamy peanut butter or Nutella.
3. Take one banana disk and roll it in sprinkles- completely coating only the edges. Place it on top of the Nilla wafer coated in peanut butter or Nutella.
4. Spread a thin layer of creamy peanut butter on the inside of a second Nilla wafer and place it on top of sprinkle coated banana disk to create a sandwich.
5. Enjoy!

Reading Guide



Caps for Sale

Author/Illustrator: Esphyr Slobodkina
HarperCollins Publisher



R Repeat the Book: Repeating gives more chances to learn the vocabulary.

First Read (events): Look at the cover, read the title, and say, *“I wonder why the man in the tree has all those hats? Let’s read and find out.”* The book is full of repeated words or phrases which, hopefully, after several readings your child will say along with you. Pause before a word (the colors of the hat) to give your child time to say the word. As you read, point out how the monkeys do the same thing as the man. Talk about the gestures he could make to encourage the monkeys to give back his hats. Compare you and your child’s suggestion to what actually happens. Ask the first read question in the Ask Questions section.

Second Read (emotions): Look at the cover, read the title and say, *“I wonder why there are monkeys in the story? (point to the monkeys on the cover) Let’s read and find out.”* Talk about the man being mad at the monkeys. Ask your child how he would feel in the same situation. Ask the second read question.

Third Read (retell): Let your child retell the story to you. Encourage your child to name the different colors of the caps. As your child retells, you can act out the reactions of the monkeys. Ask the third read question.

Vocabulary

Use these words when you talk with your child this month.

wares - things you sell

upset - overturn; cause to fall

bunch - a group of similar objects

stamped - put your foot down very hard

shouted - to call out in a loud voice

E Engage and Enjoy: Using these activities keeps your child’s interest in the story.

Before or after reading the book, play “Simon Says” with your child. Give your child simple commands. Be sure to show your child what you want him/her to do. Remember your child cannot move forward unless the command starts with *“Simon Says...”*

A Ask Questions: After talking about the book, ask questions to promote deeper thinking.

After the first read, ask, *“Why does the man wear the caps on his head?”*

After the second read, ask, *“Why does the man sit down by the tree?”*

After the third read, ask, *“Why is the man so angry with the monkeys?”*

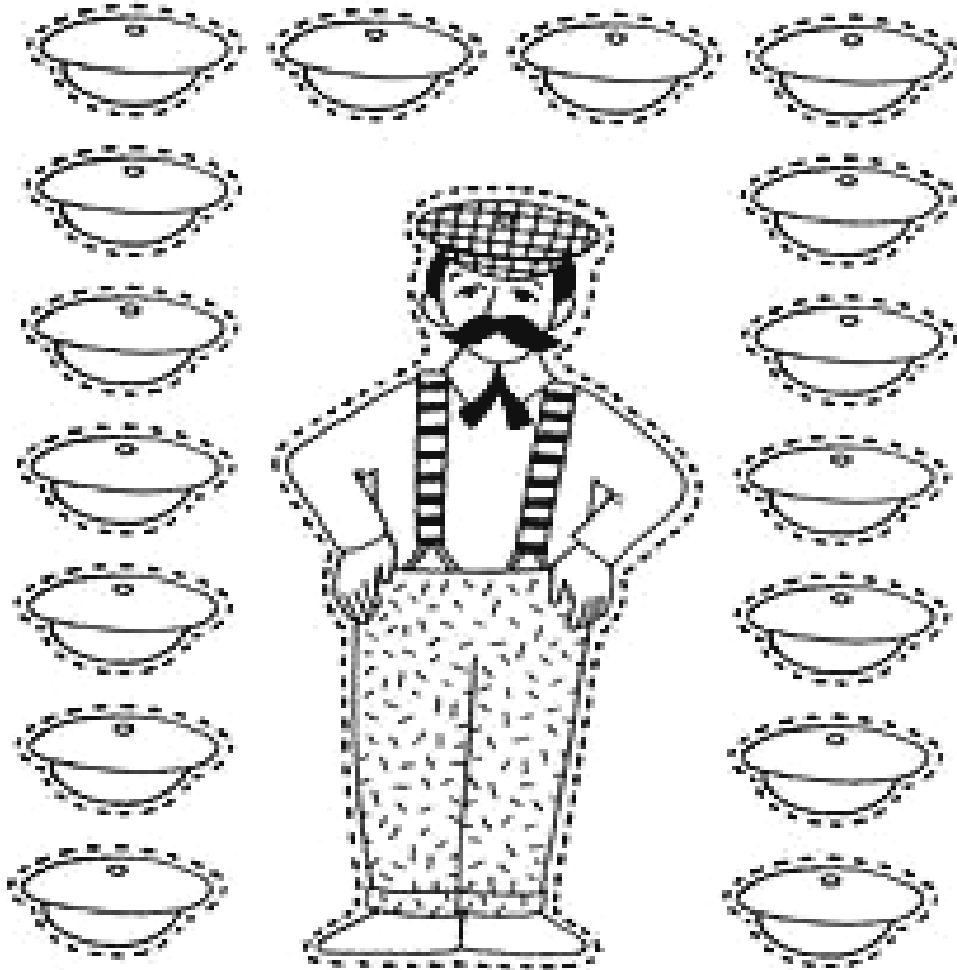
D Do More: Use other activities to help your child connect vocabulary to their world outside of the story.

On the next page, there are some additional activities which you can do with your child.

Things to Do

Cut out the illustration below. Let your child decorate the caps (encourage your child to do the same design on several caps so he can stack them in a pattern as in the book). Cut out the peddler and his caps so your child can stack them in different patterns.

Stack-the-Caps



Ferst Readers has adopted and adapted the READ guide format courtesy of:



See the
R.E.A.D.
video here

Rollins Center
for Language & Literacy

A Program of the Atlanta Speech School

Read Right

From the Start

Read with your child every day.

Wherever you may go, There Ferst will be!



Pictured: Caleb (left), Eli (middle)
reading last Ferst book

Kristin Khan is so grateful to Ferst for being there for her family. It all started one day at the Columbus Children's Book Festival when Kristin came across Ferst Readers' booth.

Military life can be hard, but as Kristin explains, *"one thing that has somehow remained constant, is a book in the mail every month for my children."*

Moving every year for four years can be tough for a family with young children, but this family stays strong. With the help of Ferst Readers, Caleb and Eli have discovered new fiction and non-fiction stories they love to read together!

Eli, now 5 years old, has just received his last book.

"I just want to say how lucky I am to have found this program and how much my kids appreciated it."

-Kristin Khan

Contact muscogeecounty@ferstreaders.org to be featured as our next Reader of the Month!

Community Partner



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