

If You Find a Rock

by Peggy Christian

The photographs of children discovering rocks and the descriptive, poetic language used, transport young readers into a world where they are encouraged to explore their environment.



Read

Before:

Introduce the book and tell the children a little bit about it. Follow that with a comment or question that is related to the story such as, *What is something that you have discovered?* Encourage a discussion so the children can comment, ask questions, and express their feelings. Set the stage for listening by asking an "I wonder" statement based on the cover illustration.

- I wonder where all those rocks came from?

During:

Encourage the children to comment on the illustrations, ask questions, and predict what will happen next in the story. Children gain confidence and a sense of achievement through being able to correctly predict how a story will end. Point out "rare words" (e.g., those words that are not commonly used in every day conversation) and help the children relate the meaning in a way that makes sense to them.

Rare Words in *If You Find a Rock*

- crook: the part in which your finger bends
- pavement: paved surface, especially of a road
- mossy: covered or overgrown with moss
- steep: sloping very sharply
- squish: squeeze something or crush something soft
- outstretched: to hold out or extend something
- pebbles: small round stone that has been worn or smoothed by erosion
- grip: an act of taking or keeping a firm hold of something
- grander: outstanding and impressive in appearance
- fossil: preserved remains of an animal or plant
- sifting: to separate particles, take something out

After:

Discuss the story. Ask questions...

- Who can describe a skipping rock?
- Which rock can be used to draw on the pavement with?
- What did the wishing rock look like?
- Where are some places that you find pebbles?
- What does it mean to worry? Do you think rubbing a rock between your fingers could help?
- Which rocks were for hiding creepy and crawling animals?
- What did they do with the rock that towered over them?
- What kind of rock was the best rock of all?

Do

Chalk Art

You will need: black and white construction paper, an assortment of chalk pieces (different colors and sizes) and hairspray

Give each child a piece of white and black construction paper. In the center of the table place an assortment of chalk and allow the children enough time to create any design or picture they want. Encourage them to make lots of circles (to represent rocks) on their paper. They could design their perfect rock. If the children do not want to draw circles (or have not reached that benchmark) they can draw any picture they want. The children will discover that the colors look different on the white paper than they do on the black paper. After the pictures are finished spray the entire paper with hairspray. Once it dries the chalk will not rub off of the paper and the images will stay completed.