

Vacation's Over! Return of the Dinosaurs

by Joe Kulka

Full page, detailed illustrations comically portray the lives of dinosaurs and what happens when they come back to Earth from a million year vacation.



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 would you do if you saw a dinosaur?* 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 how the dinosaurs fit on the plane?

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 *Vacation's Over! Return of the Dinosaurs*

- fossilized: to convert and preserve something as a fossil
- extinct: no longer in existence
- million: a large number of people or things
- rocketing: self-propelled object containing combustible propellants
- planets: an object in orbit around stars
- Jupiter: largest planet, fifth from the Sun
- Mars: the third smallest planet, fourth from the Sun
- indulge: to allow yourself or somebody else to experience something enjoyable
- lavish: given or produced in abundance or to excess
- scenic: picturesque, famous beauty
- Great Wall of China: one of the 8 Wonders of the World, made of rock and spans
- famished: to be extremely hungry, starving
- escargot: snail used as food
- rain forest: thick tropical forest with heavy amounts of rainfall
- Kenyon: people or things from the African country Kenya
- plain: a large section of land that is clearly visible and has no obstructions
- snores: to breathe noisily while asleep

After:

Discuss the story. Ask questions...

- Are dinosaurs around today? Why not?
- Where did all the dinosaurs go?
- Describe some of the things that the dinosaurs did on their vacation.
- Why did the purple dinosaur roar?
- What did the dinosaurs want to eat at the restaurant?
- What happened to the T-Rex's pet?
- Why were some of the pictures blank that Frank took?
- Why did a rain forest grow around the dinosaur's house?
- What were some other things that happened to the dinosaurs' things while they were on vacation?
- What was T-Rex's new pet?



Do

If I Had a Dinosaur....

You will need: white paper, crayons/markers, glue and pictures of various dinosaurs (you can use the inside front and back covers of the book)

After reading the story, show the children all the different dinosaurs found in the book. Talk about each one, the proper names, what they eat and how big the dinosaurs are. Allow the children to choose a dinosaur and then glue the picture on a piece of paper. Next the children will draw a picture of what they would do with a dinosaur or where they would take the dinosaur on vacation. Have the children describe their picture and dictate, in their exact words, by writing the story below the picture. If desired, allow the children to share their picture with their classmates.