

Peter Spit a Seed at Sue

by Jackie French Koller

Another boring summer day is quickly turned around as four friends discover how much fun you can really have when you “accidentally” spit a watermelon seed.



Read

Before:

Introduce the book and tell the children a little bit about it. Follow with a comment or question that is related to the story such as, *What other seeds could you spit?* 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 why he is spitting that seed at that girl?

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 *Peter Spit a Seed at Sue*

- bored: tired of not having an exciting or interesting situation
- chase: to pursue somebody or something
- chomped: to chew noisily and to take big bites
- slurped: to drink something noisily
- gulped: to swallow something fast
- burped: a noise made through the mouth
- pepper: to shower somebody or something with something
- splatter: to spatter or splash something
- tangled: to become twisted together
- fluttered: to move something light or small quickly
- polka dots: repeated contrasting dots on a fabric
- leopard: a large spotted cat
- village square: a group of houses and other buildings in a rural area
- gobbling: to eat quickly and greedily
- swooped: to make a sweeping movement and descend quickly
- impish: mischievous

Rare Words in *Peter Spit a Seed at Sue* (continued)

- grin: to smile broadly, usually showing the teeth
- rumbled: to make a deep rolling sound
- clamoring: a persistent demand for something
- limo: a fancy, long car
- mayor: the head of city or town government
- steely: silver in color, shiny and hard
- boomed: to make a loud deep sound
- vowed: a solemn promise to perform an act or carry out an activity

After:

Discuss the story. Ask questions...

- Can you name the kids on the front porch?
- What were the kids doing?
- How did the kids get the watermelon?
- What happened when they started eating the watermelons?
- Who spit the first seed?
- After the kids started spitting the seeds, what happened next?
- What happened to the sheets on the clothes line?
- Did the police officer get mad when the kids spit a seed at him? What did he do?
- Who else wanted some seeds?
- Who stopped the watermelon seed spitting fight?
- What did the mayor throw?
- How did everyone react when the mayor started throwing pies?
- Describe what the city looked like after the seed spitting and pie throwing fight.

Do

Seed Spitting Contest

You will need: a large watermelon (with seeds), Paper towels, paper cups, chalk and measuring tape.

After reading the story, hand out the watermelon slices, paper towels and cups. Instruct the children to save their seeds in their paper cups as they eat their watermelon. After everyone has eaten, find an appropriate place to have a seed spitting contest. Have the children, one at a time, spit a watermelon seed. Using the chalk, write their initials by their seed. If applicable, allow the children to spit 2 or 3 seeds. If desired, measure the distance that the seeds had traveled.