



Foundational Skills

In addition to reading the numerous high-frequency words in the text, this book also supports the development of foundational skills.

Phonological Awareness: The /f/ sound

Oral Blending: Say the beginning sounds listed below and ask your child to say the word formed by adding the /f/ sound to the end:

roo + /f/ = roof	lea + /f/ = leaf	che + /f/ = chef
hu + /f/ = huff	li + /f/ = life	wol + /f/ = wolf
loa + /f/ = loaf	bee + /f/ = beef	el + /f/ = elf
shel + /f/ = shelf	kni + /f/ = knife	scar + /f/ = scarf

Phonics: The letter Ff

1. Demonstrate how to form the letters **F** and **f** for your child.
2. Have your child practice writing **F** and **f** at least three times each.
3. Ask your child to point to the words in the book that begin with the letter **f**.
4. Write down the following words and ask your child to circle the letter **f** in each word:

for	fun	raft	fur	foot
fast	roof	if	sift	friend
fold	lift	fluff	flat	stuff

Fluency: Shared Reading

1. Reread the story to your child at least two more times while your child tracks the print by running a finger under the words as they are read. Ask your child to read the words he or she knows with you.
2. Reread the story taking turns, alternating readers between sentences or pages.



Language

The concepts, illustrations, and text help children develop language both explicitly and implicitly.

Vocabulary: Synonyms

1. Write the following words on separate pieces of paper:

small	scared	house	thin	joyful
big	slender	nice	happy	afraid
little	excellent	tired	run	make
sleepy	jog	large	create	pretty
good	home	lovely	great	

2. Read each word to your child and ask your child to repeat it.
3. Explain to your child that when two different words mean almost the same thing, they are called synonyms.
4. Mix the words up. Point to a word and ask your child to read it. Provide clues if your child needs them. Ask your child to match the pairs of synonym words.



Reading Literature and Informational Text

To support comprehension, ask your child the following questions. The answers either come directly from the text or require inferences and discussion.

Key Ideas and Detail

- Ask your child to retell the sequence of events in the story.
- What did the four friends have in common?

Craft and Structure

- Is this a book that tells a story or one that gives information?
How do you know?
- How did the animals help each other?

Integration of Knowledge and Ideas

- Why do you think the men left the house?
- Can you describe a time when you felt bad but everything turned out okay?