



# Read Aloud: *Rabbits and Raindrops*

Standard Connection:  
 ELA.RL.PK4.1-7, 9-10  
 ELA.SL.PK4.1-4, 6  
 ELA.L.PK4.1, 1c, 4, 6

### Enduring Understanding(s):

- Weather affects living things.
- Living things respond in different ways to different kinds of weather.
- Living things often depend on each other for shelter and protection.

### Essential Question(s):

- How do living things work together to solve problems and accomplish goals?

Materials	Vocabulary	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Rabbits and Raindrops</i></li> <li>• Vocabulary word picture cards</li> </ul>	<p><b>hedge:</b> a row of bushes</p> <p><b>lawn:</b> a grassy area</p> <p><b>nibble:</b> to chew, taking tiny bites</p> <p><b>shelter:</b> a safe place</p> <p><b>clover:</b> a small plant with bright green leaves and white or purple flowers</p> <p><b>butterfly:</b> a flying insect with large, colorful wings</p> <p><b>grasshopper:</b> a jumping insect with long back legs</p>	<p><b>shower:</b> a short, gentle rain</p> <p><b>waterproof:</b> keeps water out/off</p> <p><b>hummingbird:</b> a tiny, bright-colored bird that sips nectar</p> <p><b>bee:</b> a flying insect that makes honey</p> <p><b>raindrops:</b> a drop of rainwater</p> <p><b>soaked:</b> extremely wet</p> <p><b>spider:</b> eight-legged creatures that spin silk webs</p>
Books		

First Read	
<b>Preparation: Set up materials</b>	
<p><b>Children will:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• listen to a story read aloud</li> <li>• demonstrate increasing levels of sustained and focused engagement</li> <li>• show a steady increase in the number of words in listening vocabulary</li> <li>• develop an understanding of main events</li> </ul>	
<p>“The title of this book is <i>Rabbits and Raindrops</i>. The author, the person who wrote the story, is Jim Arnosky.”</p>	<b>Show front cover.</b>
<p>“The <b>hedge</b> is this row of bushes. The <b>lawn</b> is the green grass.”</p>	<b>pp. 1-2</b>
<p>“The rabbits are taking tiny bites - <b>nibbling</b> the clover plants.”</p>	<b>p. 10</b>
<p>“The rabbit’s fur won’t keep the water off - it isn’t <b>waterproof</b>.”</p>	<b>p. 14</b>
<p>“The <b>hedge</b> is a good <b>shelter</b> for the rabbits. It is a safe place that keeps them warm and dry.”</p>	<b>p. 17</b>
<p>“The rain wasn’t very hard. It was gentle and quick - it was just a <b>shower</b>.”</p>	<b>p. 24</b>
<p><b>Discussion Question(s):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How did the mother rabbit take care of the baby rabbits?</li> <li>• What other animals took shelter under the hedge when the rain began?</li> </ul>	

## Second Read

### Children will:

- recall some main events when asked
- link characters' basic emotions to their actions
- use their own experiences to understand characters' feelings and motivations
- express the main idea of a story or other text in a way that shows increasing understanding

"We read this story once before. You remember that the story's title is...*Rabbits and Raindrops*. The author and illustrator is Jim Arnosky."

**Pause before you read the title so that children can chime in. Underline the title as you read it.**

"Why are the rabbits under the **hedge**?"

**pp. 1-3  
Children respond.**

"What did the baby rabbits do after the mother rabbit hopped out onto the **lawn**?"

**pp. 7-8  
Children respond.**

"What did the rabbits do when they were on the **lawn**?"

**pp. 9-10  
Children respond.**

"All of a sudden, the weather changed. What happened?"

**pp. 11-12  
Children respond.**

"What did the rabbits do when the rain began? Why?"

**pp. 13-14  
Children respond.**

"When the **shower** ended, what did the rabbits do?"

**pp. 25-26  
Children respond.**

### Discussion Question(s):

- Why did the turtle (p. 24) probably not need to take shelter under the hedge?
- The rabbits' fur wasn't waterproof. In *One Dark Night*, do you think the cats' fur was waterproof or not? Why?
- In *Thunder Cake*, the animals had shelter from the rain in a barn; chickens and cows don't have waterproof feathers/fur.

## Third Read

### Children will:

- chime in and read the story with the teacher
- practice saying and using story-related vocabulary words
- recall main events and characters in the story

As you read, slow down in some places to invite children to chime in. If children have difficulty recalling, scaffold by saying the first sound of a word or the first word in a phrase.

### Discussion Question(s):

- How is the rabbits' sheltering under the hedge similar to or different from the cats' sheltering in Jonathan's house in *One Dark Night*?
- If Jonathan had seen the rabbits getting wet in the rain, do you think he would have tried to bring them inside his house? Why? Why not?
- In *Thunder Cake*, the animals did not need any special care from the rain; they were safe and dry in the barn.

## Fourth Read

### Children will:

- act out one or more scenes from the story
- explore character motivations and emotions
- recall main events from the story

With children, choose one scene to act out. Assign roles to children or use a structure to ask for volunteers. As you read the corresponding pages from the story, children act out the scene and recite any dialogue.

### Discussion Question(s):

- How are the baby rabbits in *Rabbits and Raindrops* similar to or different from the kittens in *One Dark Night* / the animals in the barn in *Thunder Cake*?