



AUNT ANT LEAVES THROUGH THE LEAVES

A Story with Homophones and Homonyms

Nancy Coffelt

About the Book

Learning about homophones and homonyms is laugh-out-loud fun in this retelling of “The Little Red Hen.”

This book is aligned with the **COMMON CORE STATE STANDARDS** for kindergarten English Language Arts in Vocabulary Acquisition and Use: (L.K.4.a).

**GRADES
PREK–3**

978-0-8234-2353-8 / Language Arts Picture Book

SUGGESTED CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES

Literature/Language Arts

Fiction vs. Nonfiction—Although this book contains important information about words, it is told through a story in which animals talk. Discuss the meaning of fiction versus nonfiction and have students decide which actions and objects in the story are imaginary and which are real.

Compare and Contrast—Various retellings of “The Little Red Hen” can be found in your school or public library. Read these aloud to the students and have them compare the elements of these versions with Coffelt’s retelling.

Homonyms and Homophones—Students can begin to create a class list of words on a bulletin board. For each pair or group of words, they can either write or illustrate the definitions to show that the words have different meanings even though they are spelled or sound alike. They can begin with the words highlighted in the story and add others as they encounter them in their other reading. They can also explain which are homophones (wait/weight) and which are homonyms (bear/bear).

Fables—In several of Aesop’s fables, an ant is one of the main characters. Students may want to read these fables and talk about the ant’s characteristics. Links to a variety of Aesop’s fables can be found here:

<http://mythfolklore.net/aesopica/oxford/index.htm> Numbers 125, 126, and 127 feature ants.

Oral Language/Dramatic Interpretation—Students can reenact the story, portraying the various animals and emphasizing the homophones and homonyms from the story in their performances. Older students may make paper bag masks for each animal and then present their drama to another class.

Science

Ants—Ants are portrayed in many stories as being very industrious. Students can research ants to determine how they live and function, and to answer the question of why Aunt Ant is the first to help Monkey, and how all of her friends help him move the bananas from the tractor to Monkey’s house. This research will also answer the question of how a few ants can (seemingly) carry a banana that is much larger and heavier than they are. See: www.howitworksdaily.com/environment/%EF%BB%BFwhy-can-ants-carry-items-much-heavier-than-themselves/

Cooking/Banana Cream Pie—

www.cooks.com/rec/view/0,1941,153169-241204,00.html presents a very easy recipe that some students might want to try making at home and then share with the class.

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3.12

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