

Pickin' Peas

Read Aloud Guide

Themes: Actions & Consequences, Persistence, Resourcefulness

Book Brief: A clever, singing rabbit eats his way through the pea patch until Little Girl snatches him up, and he is soon singing a new tune as he plans his escape. With a nod to Brer Rabbit, *Pickin' Peas* is adapted from two folktales collected in Alabama and Virginia.

Author:

Margaret Read MacDonald

Illustrator:

Pat Cummings



Before Reading

The Cover: Ask students to make a prediction about the story based on the cover.

The Pictures: Take a brief picture walk and ask students what they notice.

Prior Knowledge: Ask, "Have you tried to be 'clever' or 'wily' or a 'trickster,' much like Rabbit in the story?"

Vocabulary: Frontload Tier 2 words using the accompanying [Vocabulary Guide](#)

Purpose for Reading: "As we read, think about Rabbit and Little Girl in the story, and how they both are clever? What does Rabbit want? What does Little Girl want? How are they both clever and resourceful?"

During Reading

Check for understanding & make connections:

- Who are the characters in the story?
- Where does Little Girl put her peas when she's picked them?
- What conflict does Little Girl encounter while picking peas?
- What is Little Girl's solution to Rabbit stealing her peas?
- What does Little Girl do with Rabbit after she catches him?
- How does Rabbit escape from Little Girl?
- Why do you think Rabbit is stealing Little Girl's peas?
- How is Rabbit considered "clever"?
- How is Little Girl considered "clever"?



Think Aloud:

"I notice that the rabbit is fearless in eating the girl's garden peas."

I'm wondering..."Have you ever been fearless about something?"

After Reading

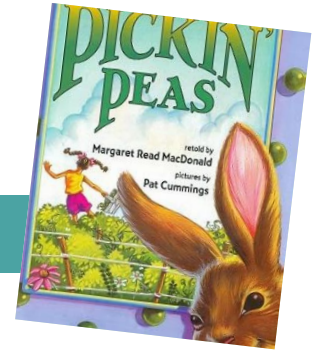
Our Purpose: "How did both Rabbit and Little Girl work to protect their goals?"

If your students enjoyed this book...

- Encourage them to continue to discuss it and refer to it in other lessons.
- Let them explore more about the topic by reading other books with similar themes, structure, characters, or content.

Pickin' Peas

Extension Activities



Act It Out

Directions:

- Divide students into pairs.
- One student will play Little Girl or Little Boy, and one student will be Rabbit.
- Little Girl/Boy acts as if she is planting in his/her garden while Rabbit steals his/her plants.
- Students improvise how they would react to the situation.
- Students come up with a solution that will make Little Girl/Little Boy and Rabbit happy.
- Present to the class.

Sing-Along with Dance Moves

Directions:

- Make up dance moves to go along with the lyrics of the story. Write the lyrics on the board.
- Read the final page "About the tale" to get dance move ideas from author, Margaret Read MacDonald.
 - "Pickin' peas. Put 'em in my pail."*
 - "Pickin' peas. Land on my knees."*
 - "Pickin' peas. Land on my...WOAPP!"*
 - "Diggin' up roots. Land on my foots."*
 - "Heard my momma callin' me RIGHT over there."*
 - "Gonna eat all I want 'cause you can't catch me!"*
- Students can sing along and dance when the lyrics arrive in the story.

Write a Short Poem

Directions:

- Write a short poem of 4 or 5 lines about Rabbit and Little Girl.
- Illustrate a picture of the poem.
- Present to the class.