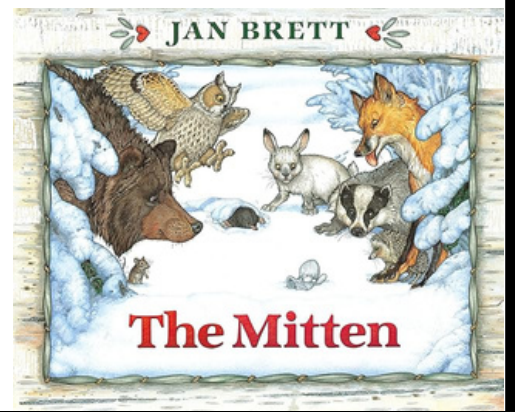


The Mitten

By Jan Brett



Before Reading: Get Ready

Tell your child what you see on the cover of the book. Then, ask your child what they see on the cover. Read the book's title, author, and illustrator to your child.

Activate comprehension and set a purpose for reading. Today, we are going to read about a little boy named Nicki who wanted his grandmother, called Baba, to knit him a pair of white mittens. Baba did not want to do that because she thought it would be hard to find the white mittens if he dropped them in the snow. But, she decided to knit him the mittens that he wanted. What do you think is going to happen? Let's read and see! Are you ready to help me read? (Note: Encourage your child to "pretend read" the book with you! "Pretend reading" is the first stage of reading and builds your child's language development and early reading skills!).

During Reading: Read Together

Sit side-by-side to share the book, or have your child sit on your lap while you read to them.

Read the book in an excited voice and encourage your child to "read" with you. Touch under each word as you read aloud to help your child match spoken words with print. If your child comments on a page or asks questions about the book, please pause and briefly discuss before returning to reading to help your child engage in the reading.

Before reading, turn (or have your child turn) the pages in the book. Have your child talk about what they think is happening with each animal and the mitten. Stop turning the pages after you see the picture with the bear sneezing with all of the animals so that your child can be surprised by the ending!

- **On the last page of the book,** ask your child, "Why is the mitten so big now?" Explain to your child that the animals stretched it out when they tried to get inside it.
- **After you finish reading the book,** you may want to review all of the animal names from the book.

After Reading: Discuss and Extend

Ask your child whether they liked the book. Ask your child whether they want you to read the book with them again! Encourage your child to “read” the book with you when you read it again.

After reading the book, you and your child could:

- Go to the library to find other books by Jan Brett to read!
- Have your child draw a picture of a mitten. Then, ask your child to tell you a story about the mitten and write down what your child says. Read the story together!
- Using an old mitten you have at home (or you could draw a picture of a mitten on a paper bag, an old pillowcase, an old sock, etc.), have your child put items inside of it that would fit! Talk about what “fits” and what does not “fit” and why.

NOTE: Videos for parents can be accessed on the LEAP website: <https://leap.cehd.gmu.edu/parent-and-family-resources/>