

# Blanket

by Ruth Ohi



## Before Reading: Get Ready

**Review the book synopsis with the student to confirm interest in reading the book.** Share the title, and note that the author is also the illustrator. Talk about the cover.

**Activate comprehension and set a purpose for reading.** In *Blanket*, Cat wraps up in a blanket to ward off feelings of sadness. Dog shows Cat how to use a flashlight to make shadows and feel better. This is a wordless book, so we have to look at the pictures and use what we know about stories to understand. Remember that stories have a beginning, a middle, and an end. There are characters who have a problem that needs to be solved. When the problem is solved, the story ends. Let's look at the pictures to see what happens to Cat, and how the blanket is used throughout the story. Let's also talk about what we see, and tell the story out loud. In wordless picture books we get to tell the story according to what we see in the pictures.

## During Reading: Read Together

**Sit side-by-side to share the book.** Follow the conversation prompts and invite your student to ask questions or comments connected to the text to ensure their comprehension. Encourage your student to talk about the illustrations and tell you the story in their own words!

- **After reading p. 6:** Have your student notice that Cat is hiding under the blanket. Ask your student if they have ever snuggled up in a blanket to feel safe, or if they know someone who has.
- **After reading p. 14:** Have your student notice how Dog crawls under the blanket with Cat and uses the flashlight to cheer Cat up. Ask your student if they have ever helped cheer up a friend.
- **After reading p. 20:** Have your student notice how Dog and Cat use the blanket to build a fort, then use the flashlight inside the fort to make shadow puppets. Ask your student if they have played in a fort and or made shadow puppets with a friend. Lead your student to notice that Cat is feeling happier.

- **After reading p. 28:** Help your student notice that Dog and Cat are sitting on the blanket having a snack. Invite your student to tell what kind of snacks they like to share with friends.
- **After finishing the book:** Let's talk about what happened in the story! How did Cat begin the day? How did the blanket comfort Cat throughout the day in different ways? How did Dog support Cat throughout the day? Are there any times where you have snuggled in a blanket to feel better, or helped a friend who was sad?

**NOTE:** This book does not have page numbers. These conversation prompts will be marked in the book for your use.

## After Reading: Discuss and Extend

**After reading, briefly discuss the book and revisit story elements to ensure your student understands the book.** Review the problem (Cat was sad) and solution (The blanket provided comfort and Dog showed friendship). The big idea in this book (theme) is how friends and comfort items like blankets can help us feel better when we are sad. Extend the conversation with drawing to give your student multiple opportunities to show understanding.

- **I hope you enjoyed our book today and will read other wordless picture books!**
- **Let's draw to respond to this story. You can write too if you like!** (Choose a prompt for student response and copy the selected frame into your student's notebook.)
  - One day I made shadow puppets. I made\_\_\_\_\_.
  - Sometimes when I feel sad, I can \_\_\_\_\_.
  - I think the best part of this book was when\_\_\_\_\_.

Read connected books! For another story about a child and his security blanket, read *Owen* by Kevin Henkes. For an information book about shadows and light, read *What Makes a Shadow* by Clyde Robert Bulla.