



Matthew's Truck Teacher Guide

PRE-READING ACTIVITY

Collect various books and photographs about transportation. For classroom art project ideas, take a look at *Vroom! Vroom!* by Judy Press. Talk with students about how they travel and where they'd like to travel if they could drive themselves.

COMPREHENSION ACTIVITIES

Matthew's Truck is a book about pretending. In this story, the words say one thing and the pictures say another. Contradictions of this sort can produce humor. Encourage children to look at the story with humor in mind. And when you read aloud, use dramatic voices to make the real world descriptions seem even more exciting and even scary. Then have the children choose which of the pretending scenes is most fun for them.

THEMATIC ACTIVITIES

Language Arts — After reading *Matthew's Truck* aloud, explain to children that the story is based on a real boy and what he likes to pretend. Have students think about how they play and pretend. What people or animals do they like to act out? Could they write a pretending story? An adventure? After writing their stories, invite students to illustrate their adventures. Older students may wish to make the story into an actual book with illustrations on each page.

Social Studies — There are lots of ways people transport themselves. Invite the children to make a list of all the vehicles they can think of. Which would be the most fun to drive? Which would be the hardest? The easiest? Which would take you farthest? Which would go fast? Slow?

Art — The illustrator's work here is very bold and bright. Which pages do the children like best? How does the color help make the words come to life? Which colors do they like best? Have the class illustrate the various vehicles the children have listed above. Have children plan and collect materials to build their own vehicles, either realistic or imaginary. Encourage them to write more stories about where they might travel in such vehicles. And then, think about their destinations—can they draw the places they'd like to visit?

Drama — This story includes many different destinations. Have children retell the story using movement with the words. Can they show with their bodies and facial expressions how it might feel to travel a busy highway? A dark forest.

Celebrations/Sleepytime — This book began with one single sentence: Matthew sleeps with his truck. Have the children share the toy or animal they sleep with at home. Imagine the adventures they might have with their sleep toy and write about it. Have a pajama party and invite the toys to come along. Perhaps the toys can tell their own stories.