

“Fire! Fire!” Said Mrs. McGuire

By Bill Martin Jr

In this rhyming book, news spreads of a fire that has broken out in the city. The fire turns out to be the smoke from the candles of a birthday cake.

BEFORE READING:

- Show the children the front of the book. Ask them to guess what the book is about.
- Ask them what they see on the front cover.
- Ask them to read (or read with you) the letters on the helicopter.

WHILE READING:

- Stop at any time if there is something you or the children would like to talk about.
- Ask them questions so that they can connect what is happening in the book to things they already know about. Try some of these ideas:
 - ⇒Do your parents ever watch the news?
 - ⇒Have you ever seen a fire truck?
 - ⇒What would you do if your house was on fire?

AFTER READING:

Spend some time talking about the story. Ask the children things like:

- ⇒How did the people in the city act when they heard about the fire?
- ⇒What did the fire fighters use to help them with the fire?
- ⇒Where was the smoke actually coming from in the story?

Read this book several times to the children. Hearing the same story again and again helps them learn new words and understand the ideas they hear better. Each day, pick a different activity to do with the children after reading “Fire! Fire!” Said Mrs. McGuire.”

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MATH AND SCIENCE

Have the children draw small pictures of rhyming objects. For example, they could draw a cat and a bat. Then, paste the pictures to index cards or square pieces of paper, and play a matching game. Flip all of the cards face down and pick one card to flip over. Try to find the rhyming match. Continue this until all matches are found.

READING READINESS

Talk about rhyming with the children, and use the book for examples like “What a pity, said Mrs. Kitty.” List common words, and help the children come up with rhymes for those words.

MUSIC AND MOVEMENT

This story uses a lot of name rhymes. Sing the Name Game song using each of the children’s names. For example, for Katie, you could sing “Katie, Katie, bo-batie, Banana-fana-fo-fatie, fee -fi-mo-matie, Katie!”

MOTOR SKILLS

Practice fire safety with the children. Have them practice the “stop, drop, and roll” technique to use if your clothes catch on fire. Practice testing to see if the door is warm before opening it. Practice crawling low on the ground to avoid the smoke by crawling under a blanket or sheet held a few inches off the ground.

THINKING SKILLS

Fill a basket with objects, one object per number of children. Have the children pass the basket around the circle. When a child gets the basket, he or she should take one object out and say a word that rhymes with that object. It does not matter if the words are real words or nonsense words. For example, if a child took out scissors, they could say “fissors” or “tissors.” Make sure each child gets a turn. If a child gets stuck, have the other children help.

ART

This book shows women in strong, powerful roles. Talk to the children about how men and women can both be news reporters, painters, fire fighters, police officers, photographers, etc. Have the children draw pictures of what they would like to be when they grow up. Have each child explain their picture to you. Ask them if both men and women could have that job.

PRETEND PLAY

Pretend there is a fire in the child care setting. Have the children practice what to do in the case of a fire. Have some children call 9-1-1, some be fire fighters, and so on. Teach them where the class would go in case of a fire, and how they should act in this emergency.

