Imogene's Antlers

ABOUT THE STORY
Imogene awakes one morning to find that she has grown a pair of antlers. This not only causes concern on the part of the members of her family but also makes everyday actions like dressing and walking though doorways difficult for Imogene. All involved try to make the best of the situation, however, and are relieved when the antlers disappear as mysteriously as they appeared until it becomes evident that they have been replaced by a peacock's tail.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR/ ILLUSTRATOR
Born and raised in Michigan, where he now lives with his wife, David Small took his master of fine arts at Yale. Other books written and illustrated by Mr. Small include *George Washington's Cow* and *Paper John*, both available as Live Oak Readalongs.

INTRODUCING THE STORY
Ask the group to tell what it might be like to wake up one morning to discover that you have grown a pair of antlers overnight. Introduce *Imogene's Antlers* as the story of a girl to whom this strange occurrence happens.

READING ACTIVITIES
Comprehension/Thinking Skills
a. What were some of the difficulties Imogene had after the antlers appeared?
b. What did her brother believe happened to Imogene?
c. How did her mother try to solve the problem?
d. What advice did her school's principal have for Imogene?

Vocabulary
Duplicate and distribute the following two lists of scrambled word (or write them on the board). Have each member of the group unscramble the words in both columns and then draw a line from the name of the animal in the left to the item in the right column that belongs to it (e.g., lek-rental=elk-ankler).

etanphel (elephant)	kabe (beak)
telutr (turtle)	gnaf (fang)
low (owl)	stuk (tusk)
sekan (snake)	tisper (stripe)
grite (tiger)	lhels (shell)
oshorrenic (rhinoceros)	drude (udder)
woc (cow)	norh (horn)

CROSS-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES
Language Arts: Disappearing Jobs
Explain that like milliner, many words define occupations that are not common as they once were. Write the following words on the board and ask if anyone can tell what occupation they define. Have the group use the dictionary to locate the meanings of any unknown words. Answers are in parentheses.

cooper (barrel maker)
blacksmith (one who works with iron on a forge)
farrier (a blacksmith who specializes in shoeing horses)
wainwright (a wagon maker)

Ask why it is that a blacksmith, who works on a forge, is not called a forger. Ask why the occupations described above are no longer as popular and common as they once were. Discuss the effects of technological progress and change on jobs.

Imagination
Some of the problems Imogene faced because of her antlers are described in the story (getting dressed, going though a doorway, wearing a hat). Ask the group to think of other problems Imogene might have faced because of the antlers (e.g., sitting in a movie house without getting complaints, riding in a car other than a convertible, getting on a plane, playing basketball, etc.). Mention that Imogene was able to play the piano and ask the group if they can think of an instrument that a person with antlers would find difficult to play (a tuba).

Art: All Dressed Up
Have children pretend they are a dressmaker or a tailor and have them sketch or design an outfit to cover Imogene's peacock feathers. If time and materials are available, have children pretend they are the milliners and design a new hat. Have the children describe whether their hat id functional or merely for fun.

All Mixed Up
Have children cut several pictures of people from a magazine. Also have them cut several pictures of animals from magazines. Now create a mixed-up character using the head from the person and the body of the animal or visa versa and glue to a sheet of paper. Children can create a name and a story for their mixed-up character.