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Activity Guide

800-788-1121

Round Trip

ABOUT THE STORY

This unique book takes readers on a visual road trip from the country to the city and back again, but with an imaginative perspective utilizing illusion. Readers follow along with the white and black illustrations as the characters describe their journey to the city. When readers reach the end of the book, they flip it over and read it the other way, which tells the story of the return trip home to the country with the same illustrations being used for both trips.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR/ILLUSTRATOR

Ann Jonas attended Cooper Union and after graduation went to work in the studio of her former graphic design instructor. After her marriage to Donald Crews, Ms. Jonas moved to Germany and worked for a German advertising agency. After later returning to the United States, the couple started a freelance design business. Ms. Jonas enjoys designing books that involve some sort of visual play.

INTRODUCING THE STORY

Ask the students if they have read any books that deviated from the standard book format. Explain that this book tells the simple story of a trip from the country to the city and back again. However, the return trip is viewed by turning the book upside down and examining the illustrations from a completely different perspective.

READING ACTIVITIES

Comprehension/Thinking Skills

- At what time of day does the story begin?
- What were some of the sights viewed on the trip to the city?
- What activities were experienced in the city?
- What time of day did the characters decide to head back to the country?
- What did they see on the way home?

Vocabulary

Write these words on the chalkboard and review their meanings. Then ask volunteers to use the words in sentences.

neighborhood
marshy inlets

factories
searchlights

expressway
pierced

CROSS-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Language Arts/Creative Writing: Take a Trip

Have students write an essay describing their round trip from home to school. Be sure to include details of the sights along the way.

Art: Be an Illusionist

Show the groups examples of several illusions, preferably black and white ones. Highlight the pen and ink drawings by artist M.C. Escher, which are imaginative, reversible drawings much like the ones in this book. Ask the students to create an illustration of their own using this technique.

Science: The Ultimate Round Trip

Explain that the Earth makes a daily round trip by completing a twenty-four hour rotation on its' axis. Use a globe to demonstrate. Ask the group how long it takes the Earth to make the ultimate round trip around the sun (a year). Discuss why it takes this long.

Math: How Long Does it Take?

Divide students into pairs. Give each pair a watch or timer and assign them a destination within the building (bathroom, office, front door, etc.). Have them see how much time is required to take a round trip walk to their assigned destination and back. Chart each pair's time and use the chart to answer questions (such as "What destination took the longest to get to?").

Language Arts: Take a Closer Look

Examine the illustrations in the book more closely. How was the author/illustrator able to make one illustration work as two different pictures? Turn to the illustration of the theater and discuss the following questions.

- What does the audience become when flipped over?
- What does the ceiling become?
- What do the lights on the walls become?
- How are the lights different?
- What does the movie screen become?

INTERNET ACTIVITY

Before you send children to do research using any of the keywords listed below, you may wish to try them yourself to be sure the sites are suitable.

Illusions

Research illusions. What are some of the best known? How do they work?

Ann Jonas

Research the author/illustrator to find out how she got the idea for this book. Did it take her long to draw the illustrations? What other books has she done?