



Activity Guide

800-788-1121

Shoes

ABOUT THE STORY

Written in chant-like rhyme, this whimsical story highlights the variety of shoes people wear.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Elizabeth Winthrop graduated from Sarah Lawrence College where she studied writing. She then worked for a number of years as an editor in the children's book department of a major publisher. In 1972, she published her first book, *Bunk Beds*. She has since published over fifty books for both adults and children, and is the recipient of numerous awards for her writing.

ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

William Joyce is the author and illustrator of several award-winning picture books, including *Rolie Polie Olie*, *Snowie Rolie*, *Dinosaur Bob*, *Santa Calls*, and *George Shrinks*. He is also the creator of the Emmy Award-winning series *Rolie Polie Olie* on the Disney Channel. William Joyce lives in Shreveport, Louisiana, with his wife, Elizabeth, and their children, Jack and Mary Katherine.

INTRODUCING THE STORY

Have the group make a list of the different types of shoes they are wearing. Explain that in this book the author has put several types of things people wear on their feet into a fun, singsong type of rhyme.

READING ACTIVITIES

Comprehension/Thinking Skills

- What are the "shoes too high" called? (stilts)
- Which type of shoes are worn at night with pajamas? (slippers)
- What kind of shoes help you swim in the water? (flippers)
- What are rainy weather shoes usually made from? (rubber)
- What does the author say are the most perfect thing? (feet)

Vocabulary

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

buckle	snuggle	squishing	lacing
blister	especially	skinny-boned	wiggly-toed

CROSS-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Language Arts: Rhyme Time

Write the following two lists of words from the story on the board. Have volunteers draw lines connecting the rhyming pairs.

blister	snow
wishing	might
bow	riding
tight	sister
sliding	squishing

Mathematics: Sorting Shoes

Divide students into groups of four or five. Have them remove their shoes and put them in a pile in front of their group. See how many ways the shoes can be sorted (style, color, size, etc.).

History/Research Skills: Say Who?

Have students research shoes to find out when they were first made and by whom. What styles of shoes were popular during different decades?

Art/Language Arts: Style Predictions

Examine how shoe styles have evolved over time. Have students design a shoe of the future. Provide them with art materials to make a sketch of their design idea. Display on class bulletin board with a written paragraph describing their idea for the shoe.

Language Arts: Shoe Syllables

Write the following list of words from the story on the board. As you read each word aloud, have students clap out the syllables. At the end of each word, have students indicate the number of syllables they clapped by holding up the same number of fingers.

Shoes, horseback, double, lost, especially, wiggly-toed, perfect, blister

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.

Shoes

See "Say Who?" activity above. Or research specific well-known designers of shoes, such as Jimmy Choo.

Elizabeth Winthrop

Research the author to find out more about the many books she has written. What awards has she won? For which titles?