



Corduroy

by Don Freeman

- **Things to get ready:**

1. A day or two ahead of reading this story, invite the children to bring in their favorite teddy bear. You bring in yours too. Try to have a few extra available for those children who might not have one.
2. Make copies of the art activity (bear and overalls). Cut these out for each child. Gather buttons or cut out circles that students could use as buttons. One could also make a copy of the bear, cut it out to make a pattern and then trace a bear for each child. This way the child could decorate the bear's face herself.
3. If possible, have a piece of corduroy fabric to show the children.
4. Snack Idea: small paper cups filled with raisins and peanuts...easy to carry to the "picnic" area.
5. A large button for the button game.

- **Getting the children ready to listen:**

1. Stand in a circle with your teddy bears.
2. Teach your students the words to the chant "Teddy Bear, Teddy Bear, Turn Around."
3. Instruct the children to clap their hands while they chant. Encourage them to turn around and touch the ground just like in the chant (their teddy bears too)!

Teddy Bear, Teddy Bear, Turn Around

*Teddy bear, teddy bear, turn around
Teddy bear, teddy bear, touch the ground
Teddy bear, teddy bear, brown and blue
Teddy bear, teddy bear, I love you!*

- **Read-Aloud Guide**

BEFORE you read the book

1. Show the front cover of the book. Read the title, author and illustrator. Ask the children what they notice about the bear. Possible responses: he is missing a button, he is looking at his lost button.
2. Show the corduroy fabric if you have brought it. Tell the children that boys and girls used to wear corduroy overalls like the ones Corduroy has on.
3. Show the back cover of the book. Ask them what they think is going on. Possible responses: the girl has fixed his overalls, they like each other.
4. Set the mood by having the children imagine they are in a very big store. Inside the store is a place just for toys where Corduroy has lived for a very long time. Tell them as the story opens, this little bear named Corduroy has 2 problems. Invite them to listen and see what they are.

DURING reading:

1. Stop after page 9 and ask the children what 2 problems Corduroy has. Responses: he wants to find a family, he has lost his button. “What is he going to do now?”
Response: He’s going to look for it in the store.
2. Use your voice to sound like a bear filled with wonder as he walks around the store, and then as he looks around his new home.

AFTER reading:

1. Ask the children how Lisa was able to buy Corduroy when her mother had already told her “no.”
(she uses her saved money)
2. How does Lisa show Corduroy that she loves him?
(gives him his own bed, sews on a new button, and gives him a hug)
3. Discuss with the children if they have any special ways to show their bear or their family that they love them.

- **Extension Activity**
 1. Have students color their bear using paints, crayons, or markers.
 2. Have students color their overalls using paints, crayons, or markers.
 3. Have students glue the overall onto their bears
 4. Have students glue buttons onto their overalls.
- **Song**
This song is too good to resist, once you've read Corduroy to your students.

(sung to the tune of "This Old Man")

*Corduroy
was a bear.
He had no friends anywhere.
'Til a child named Lisa
Took him to her home.
Now that bear is not alone.*

- **Game**
Button, Button, who has the button?
Have the children sit in a circle and put their hands behind their backs. The teacher will then drop a button into a child's hand. Don't let the child say that he has the button. After the teacher drops off the button she can still walk around the circle. When the teacher is ready she stands in the middle of the circle and says: "Button, button, who has the button?" All the children guess who has it. The one calling out the correct name first is now it. It is now this child's turn to place a button in a classmate's hand.

Related Books

Jesse Bear, What Will You Wear?

by Bruce Degen

My Best Friend Bear

by Tony Johnston

We're Going On A Bear Hunt

retold by Michael Rosen