

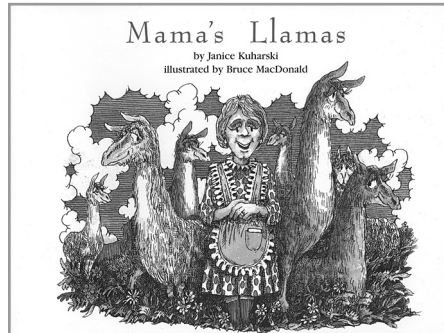
Books for Young Learners Teacher Resource

Book Notes



Mama's Llamas

Author Janice Kuharski
 Illustrator Bruce MacDonald
 16 pages ■ 159 words



Em	Early				Fluent			
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	S				G	I		

S = Shared G = Guided I = Independent

Mama's Llamas

SYNOPSIS

A fantasy rhyme about a house overcrowded with llamas.

WHAT THE BOOK OFFERS

- Fantasy fiction in verse form
- First person; the child narrator is a silent character; developing understanding of the illustrator extending the text
- Change of tense on first and final pages
- Rhyme
- Rhythm
- Four-line stanzas except for break on pages 8 and 9
- Mainly dialogue
- Speech carrier at beginning of stanza

POSSIBLE SKILLS EMPHASIS

- Understanding conventions of verse, including capitalization of each line and "poetic license"
- Paraphrasing
- Vocabulary of verse, e.g., stanza, rhythm, poetic license

INTRODUCING THE BOOK

- The title of the book provides a key to the rhyme and rhythm and illustration of the fantasy element. A short discussion could follow about the way they can read verse to avoid a singsong approach.

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Mama's Llamas (continued)

FOCUS OF INSTRUCTION

Read the verse in your head to consider where and what expression you will use.

How might the author have written this verse/page if it was not in rhyme?

- Introduce some vocabulary associated with rhyme and rhythm, e.g., rhyming couplet, poetic license

There's a child in the illustration, but she is not in the text. What might she be thinking?

FOLLOWING THE READING

- Retell *Mama's Llamas* orally and then in story form.
- Read other poems to consider the way poets "manipulate" words to achieve rhyme and rhythm.
- Extend the rhyme by adding another verse or writing a short paragraph.

What will happen when Mama buys another llama next year?

- Discuss why the illustrator included the girl in the pictures and the effect of this on the reader.