



# Over in the Meadow

## READ ALOUD GUIDE

**Themes:** Nursery Rhyme, Nature, Counting

**Book Brief:** A vibrant adaptation of a traditional song where young children practice counting and nature identification. As they explore the meadow, readers meet a variety of animals in their natural habitats.

**Illustrated by:**  
Jill McDonald

**Sung by:**  
Susan Reed

## BEFORE READING

**The Cover:** Ask students to make a prediction about the story based on the cover and title.

**The Pictures:** Take a quick picture walk and ask students what they notice about the illustrations.

**Prior Knowledge:** Explain that a meadow is a big, open grassy field. Ask, "What do you know about animals that live in nature, like a meadow?"

**Vocabulary:** Frontload Tier 2 words using the accompanying [Vocabulary Guide](#).

**Purpose for Reading:** "As we read, pay attention to the things that live in the meadow and what they do there." Name some of the animals that live in the meadow. What do they do in the meadow?

## DURING READING

**Check for understanding & make connections:**

- Name some of the animals that live in the meadow. What do they do in the meadow?
- Which animal was your favorite? Why?
- How do you think the animals feel about living in the meadow?



**Think Aloud:** "The animals in the meadow spend their days following their mothers' advice to count, jump, and swim. We can learn so much about the world around us and practice our counting by watching how different animals live and play in nature."

## AFTER READING

**Our Purpose:** "What are some animals that live over in the meadow? Why do you think it is important that this animal lives there?"

**Extending Our Thinking:**

- **Animal Movement Game:** Assign each animal a movement and have students act out the motions while you read the story aloud a second time.
- **Draw Your Favorite:** Have students choose their favorite animal from the story and draw a picture of it. Encourage them to share why they like that animal and something they learned about it.
- **Animal Counting Hunt:** Hide pictures of the animals from the book around the room and have students find and count them, matching to the numbers in the story.

If your students enjoyed this book...

- Encourage them to continue to discuss it and refer to it in other lessons and conversations.
- Let them explore more about the topic by reading other books with similar themes, structure, characters, or content.