



Conejito: A Folktale from Panama

Read Aloud Guide

Themes: Courage, Resourcefulness, Humor

Book Brief: A Panamanian folktale that follows a small but clever rabbit on his school holiday adventure to visit his Auntie Monica. Along the way, the brave Conejito must use his quick wit to escape hungry predators like Mr. Fox, Mr. Tiger, and Mr. Lion.

Author:
Margaret Read
MacDonald

Illustrator:
Geraldo Valerio

Before Reading

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

The Pictures: Take a brief picture walk and ask students what they notice.

Prior Knowledge: Ask, “Have you been frightened and needed a way to escape and feel safe?” (Optional: Think, Pair, Share)

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

Purpose for Reading: “As we read, think about how the managed to fight his fears and find a way to get home creatively and safely.”

During Reading

Check for understanding & make connections:

- What action words (verbs) describe how Conejito went up the mountain?
- What did the Fox, Tiger and Lion say to Conejito when he bumped into them?
- What did Tia Monica say to Conejito when he was afraid to go down the mountain?
- What did Conejito tell the animals when he was in the barrel?
- Why did Conejito go down the mountain in a barrel?



Think Aloud:

“I notice that...Conejito was adventurous but also scared.”

I’m wondering...Have you ever found yourself in a similar situation?”

After Reading

Our Purpose: “How did Conejito creatively and safely outsmart the fox, tiger, and lion and get back home safely?”

If your students enjoyed this book...

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



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Extension Activities

Character Web

Materials:

- Drawing paper
- Pencils

Directions:

1. Students draw 6 circles and write the main character from the story in each circle.
2. Students draw 4 lines (or more) radiating from each circle and write a word on each line to describe that character.

Panama Canal Word Find

Materials:

- Lined paper
- Pencils

Directions:

1. Teacher shows the students the country of Panama on a map, explaining it is a small country in Central America. Teacher explains the Panama Canal as part of this discussion.
2. Teacher writes PANAMA CANAL on the board.
3. Students make as many words as they can with these letters in a set period of time.

ABC Order of Tropical Fruits of Panama

Materials:

- Lined paper
- Pencils
- Crayons or markers

Directions:

1. Teacher explains the tropical climate of Panama (near the equator).
2. Students research tropical fruits found in Panama (kiwi, strawberry, melon, coconut, passion fruit, plantain, pineapple, mango, guava, orange, papaya)
3. Students put the tropical fruits in ABC order and illustrate each one.