

I Heard My Mother Call My Name

INTRODUCE THE STORY

Place the following objects in a bag: toy car, stuffed cat, moon decoration or ornament, real or artificial flower, figure of a child or children. Either have students guess each object before you remove it from the bag (with clues), or just pull them out, telling students that these objects are important in a book you're about to share.

Can they imagine how the objects might fit in?

What might the story be about?

Read the story

EXAMINE THE STORY

1. This book relies heavily on the senses. Make a chart and under each heading:

sight, touch, taste, smell hearing

list examples you find from the book. You will find that one sense has not been used. Which one is it?

2. Personification is when you give an inanimate object human characteristics to make it seem human. Find an example of this in the book. Why might the author have chosen to do this?

3 What are the main colors of this book? Why?

4 Who is the main character of this book? Is it a boy or a girl? Why do you think this?

5 Find these describing words (adjectives) in the story. Then think of another word that could be used instead. Try to make your new word as descriptive and interesting as possible.

Book's Word	My Word
the morning	_____
a lonely, meow	_____
the moon's smile	_____
the moon's smile	_____
I hear a busy, noise	_____
I hear a busy, noise	_____

6. At the end of the story, there is a feeling of slowing down.

How does the author create this feeling?

. Why do you think she wants to have this feeling?

7. How many times is the cat in the story actually mentioned in the text?

. How many times is it shown in the illustrations?

. Why do you think Laura Fernandez, the illustrator, did this?

8. A simile is when you compare one thing to something else, using the word "like "or "as" Find two of these in this book. Now write your own simile for these two objects.

EXTEND THE STORY

1. Use the pattern of this book to create your own story. Begin with: "I heard my _____(mother, brother, grandpa, canary) call my name and I know I should go in, but _____."

Create your own reasons for why it is too interesting/fun/beautiful outside to go in. Is it summer in your story, or another season? Are you alone or with a friend?

2. These are all verbs from the book:

strolling
explodes

revving
tiptoed

rocking
floating

ticking
crashing

Write a short story using at least four of them. Does your story have the same quiet, relaxed feeling as this book, or did it turn out differently?

3 Nancy Hundal has written three other books that take place in the summer. Can you find out which ones they are? (Hint: If the books aren't available to you, check out the Books page on her website <http://www.nancyhundal.com>).

4 Do you think this book is more about the general experience of being reluctant to go in on a beautiful summer night, or about one evening in one person's summer? If the story was named Jim Heard His Mother Call His Name or Jenny Heard Her Mother Call Her Name, how might the story be different?

5 This book takes place at dusk. What time of day is that? Do you know (or can you find) any other words that mean the same time of day?

What is early morning called? How many words can you find for this?

What about for noon?

LINKS TO OTHER SUBJECTS

ART:

Draw a series of three or four pictures. Link them together by drawing in an animal (such as the cat in *I Heard My Mother Call My Name*) in each frame. Tell a story about the animal without using any words.

Using crayons and manila drawing paper, draw an evening scene in your own neighborhood. Include as many interesting details as possible your house and neighbors' houses, cars on the street, streetlights, etc. Then paint over the whole picture with watered down black or dark blue paint. All your crayon work will resist the paint and show through beautifully.

SCIENCE

Research on any of these subjects:

the sun

the moon

fireflies

cats

RELATED BOOKS

About summer:

Prairie Summer by Nancy Hundal (Fitzhenry & Whiteside, 1999)

Those Summers by Alike (HarperCollins, 1996)

The Other Side by Jacqueline Woodson (Putnam's, 2001)

Instead of the sensations of evening, this one is about the sounds of morning:

Early Morning in the Barn by Nancy Tafuri (Greenwillow, 1983)

If you like the cat slinking through this story, try:

Mister Got To Go by Lois Simmie (Red Deer College Press, 1995)

I Heard My Mother Call My Name by Nancy Hundal

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Z J H Q T U Y E F V T O W N S
S R E W O L F I W S Z X W E Q
J P I S P E R E L O F F N O V
S S T O V E M N H N E I M B U
A T R Z W N M U Y M G M Q U H
Y C R O Y P S L F N L Q I U F
H E R O F I N G E R T I P S I
G K J G L J S U M M E R V D R
S I S N W L Q N F I P P E N E
P I F Q N H I Z D K E V L E F
H G Y F U N M N Q T C E V I L
W K S U D E Q S G A N L E R I
M W H S B F A O J C A X T F E
U U Q Q E H P K P D G H X H S
S F I M B U C Z C C D I I H H

CAT
FINGERTIPS
FLOWERS
PERFUME
STROLLING

DUSK
FIREFLIES
FRIENDS
PORCH
SUMMER

ENGINES
FIREWORKS
MEOW
SQUEAK
VELVET

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Puzzle Solutions

Word Search:

I Heard My Mother Call My Name

Z J H Q T U Y E F V T O W N S
S R E W O L F I W S Z X W E Q
J P I S P E R E L O F F N O V
S S T O V E M N H N E I M B U
A T R Z W N M U Y M G M Q U H
Y C R O Y P S L F N L Q I U F
H E R O F I N G E R T I P S I
G K J G L J S U M M E R V D R
S I S N W L Q N F I P P E N E
P I F Q N H I Z D K E V L E F
H G Y F U N M N Q T C E V I L
W K S U D E Q S G A N L E R I
M W H S B F A O J C A X T F E
U U Q Q E H P K P D G H X H S
S F I M B U C Z C C D I I H H