

Reading Roundup

The Rabbit Listened

Written and Illustrated
by Cori Doerrfeld

Introduction

Gather the students around you so that they are able to see the illustrations of the book. Most classrooms will have an area rug defining this space. Introduce yourself and tell the students that you are excited to share The Rabbit Listened, written and illustrated by Cori Doerrfeld.

Before Reading

Think for a moment about someone you know who was sad. Were you able to help them feel better? Think about what you did to help them. You may decide to tell your personal story about helping someone when they were sad or upset.

Note: The Rabbit Listened is a powerful story of compassion, empathy, and friendship. Due to the limited amount of text, consider reading the book in its entirety without interruption before re-reading interactively.

- *Now that we've listened carefully to the words, let's read the story again, paying attention to the illustrations. As you look closely at the pictures, ask yourself what the pictures and the words are telling us about what's happening.*

Reading Roundup
Partners



During Reading

- Begin reading the book by starting on the title page. Hold the book so that students are able to see the illustrations. Give plenty of time for students to “read” and think about the pictures. Continue to read through page 9.

- **Page 9 – T/T** - *Look at the illustration of Taylor. Turn and talk to your partner about what you think he might be thinking or saying to himself.* (I worked so hard and I was so proud of my work. Now it's ruined! I can't believe this happened. I don't know what to do now....) Continue reading through page 23.



- **Page 23 - P** - *Were the animals able to help Taylor? Why or why not?* (The animals wanted to help, but they didn't know how. They tried to help by suggesting what they would do if they were upset.)

- Continue reading the rest of the story making sure students have time to “read” the illustrations .

After Reading

- **T/T** – *What did the rabbit do differently than the other animals? Why was the rabbit able to help Taylor when the other animals were not?* (The rabbit was quiet and stayed with Taylor until he felt better. The rabbit didn't try to “fix” Taylor. He was just there for him no matter what. Without saying a word, by only listening and staying close, the rabbit helped Taylor.)

Remember that sometimes just listening is the best thing we can do for someone who is unhappy.

Background Knowledge

Each animal in the story tries to help by doing what comes naturally for them.

- **Chicken** – makes lots of noise
- **Bear** – becomes angry
- **Elephant** – remembers the way things were
- **Hyena** – laughs
- **Ostrich** – buries its head
- **Kangaroo** – puts things in its pouch
- **Snake** – treats others badly

**WORD
WAGON**