



Botanist Danny

Level E / 59 words / fiction

High frequency words:

am, are, at, but, do, going, here, is, it, like, look, not, too

Before reading

- Look at the cover and read the title.
- Possible discussion questions: "A *botanist* is a scientist who studies plants. What do you know about plants? Can you name a few different types of plants? How can plants be useful to people?"

Look through all the pictures

- Using the language in the story, discuss each photograph in the book. Notice details in the pictures and use that information to better understand the text.
- Help the children find any tricky words in the text: *botanist, scientist, flowers, and poison*. Discuss meaning, word structure, and sounds you expect to hear in those words. Have children clap and count the syllables.

Reading the text

- Have the children read the text independently. While they're reading, listen to each student and prompt them to use meaning, structure, and visual information to monitor and self-correct reading.
- Children should be able to read without using their finger to track words, except at point of difficulty.

After reading

- Discuss the meaning, structure, and letter cues that you notice students using correctly.
- **Literal comprehension:** The answers are in the text. Ask, "What does Danny do to the first plant he finds? What plant does Danny find next? What is the third plant Danny finds?" Have students read the pages that support their answers.

- **Inferential comprehension:** The answers are in your head. Read the *poison ivy* poem in the book. Ask, "What do you think this poem means? What could happen if you touched poison ivy?"

Word work

- Have the students locate the high-frequency words in the text and practice writing them.
- Find the rhyming words in the poison ivy warning, "*Leaves of three, leave them be.*" The words *leaves* (more than one leaf) and *leaves* (to go away) are *homophones*, two words that sound the same, but mean two different things.

Rereading for fluency

- Have the child(ren) read the story again aloud, listening for phrased, fluent oral reading that includes appropriate pausing and intonation.
- Reread to solve words or think about ideas, then resume a good rate of reading.

Writing activity

- Write: "*Leaves of three will not touch _____!*" on the board. Ask the students to write and complete the new poison ivy warning rhyme. Then have them draw a picture that corresponds to what they have written.

FUN FACT

Plants make life on Earth possible. They help regulate the water cycle, provide oxygen to breathe, and are the basis of the food chain that keeps all life on Earth supported. Hooray for plants!

Teaching Points: Introducing new words; Practicing rhyming words; Finding and clapping multisyllabic words; Introducing homophones; Sequencing.