



Danny and the Corn Maze

Level D / 47 words / fiction

High frequency words:

at, come, do, get, look, no, that, this

Before reading

- Look at the cover and read the title.
- Possible discussion questions: "Have you ever been to a corn maze? What do you think Danny will do at the corn maze? What time of year do you think it is?"

Look through all the pictures

- Using the language in the story, discuss what is happening in each picture.
- Help the children find the words *pumpkin* and *corn* by predicting the beginning and ending sounds.

Reading the text

- Have the children read the text independently. Encourage them to read it again if they finish before the others in the group.
- While they're reading, listen to each student individually and prompt them to use meaning, structure, and letter cues at difficulty. Praise the successful use of reading cues.
- Make sure the children can match (with their finger) or track (with their eyes) each word of the text.

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 season is it in the story? What questions does Danny ask when he is in the corn maze?" Have students read the pages that support their answers.

- **Inferential comprehension:** The answers are in your head. Ask, "How do you think Danny feels when he says, 'Oh no!' on page 8? Why do you think he feels that way? How would you feel if you got lost in a corn maze? What would you do?"

Word work

- Have students locate the high-frequency words in the text and practice writing them.
- Help the students locate and clap the two-syllable words in the text: *pumpkins, running, and into*.
- Have the children find the question marks in the story.

Rereading for fluency

- Have the children read the story again, either independently or with a partner.
- Use this opportunity to listen to each child and again prompt for strategy use at difficulty.

Writing activity

- Have each student write and complete the sentence: "*In the fall, Danny likes to _____.*" Then have them draw a picture that corresponds to what they have written.
- Encourage the use of punctuation and independent attempts to spell words correctly.

FUN FACT

The first corn maze, called **The Amazing Maize Maze**, was created by the American Maze Company, led by Don Frantz, in Annville, Pennsylvania in 1993.

Teaching Points: Introducing new words; Finding and clapping two-syllable words; Noticing question marks; Rereading.