Danny's Special Tree

Level M / 400 words / informational

High frequency words:
about, ask, clean, pull, together

by Mia Coulton

Before reading

• Look at the cover and read the title. Call attention to the informational text features within the text: italicized words, diagram, bold words, glossary, photographs.

• Possible discussion questions: "What are your predictions for this book? What do you know about the environment?"

Look through all the pictures

• Using the language in the text, 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: *special, shelter, carbon dioxide, oxygen, breathe, recycle, photosynthesis,* and *scientist.* Discuss meaning, word structure, and sounds you expect to hear in those words.

Reading the text

• Have the children read the text independently. While they're reading, listen to and prompt each student to use meaning, structure, and visual information to figure out words, self-correct, or improve expression.

• Introduce and discuss graphic organizers. A graphic organizer provides a visual representation of information, concepts, or ideas to help children understand and organize what they are reading.

After reading

• Discuss the meaning, structure, and letter cues that you notice students using correctly.

• **Literal comprehension:** The answers are in the text. Ask, "Why did Danny like his tree? What promise did Danny make?" Have students read the pages that support their answers.

• **Inferential comprehension:** The answers are in your head. Ask, "What did you learn that you didn't know before? Why do you think the author wrote this story? How do you know? How has your opinion of trees changed after reading this book?"

Word work

• Have the students locate the high-frequency words in the text and practice writing them.

• Help the students locate the rhyming words: *made-shade, sees-trees, spill-will,* and *store-more.*

• Find and discuss the plural nouns: *pictures, trees, pancakes, insects, leaves,* and *boxes.*

Rereading for fluency

• Have the child(ren) read the story again aloud, listening for phrased, fluent oral reading that includes appropriate pausing, intonation, and word stress.

Writing activity

• Together, create a web diagram graphic organizer for *Danny's Special Tree.*

• Find and discuss Danny's promise about how he will protect his special tree and the earth. Discuss his plan to reduce, reuse, and recycle. Have each student write their own promise for taking care of the earth and then have them draw a picture that corresponds to what they have written. Have them share their promises with each other.

FUN FACT

Each ton of recycled paper can save 17 trees, 380 gallons of oil, three cubic yards of landfill space, 4,000 kilowatts of energy, and 7,000 gallons of water!

Teaching Points: Introducing nonfiction/informational texts; Introducing new words; Practicing rhyming words; Practicing plural nouns; Rereading; Introducing the web diagram graphic organizer; Introducing environmentalism.

Name ·

Web Diagram Graphic Organizer

Fact

Fact

Trees

Fact

Fact