



Donkeys

Level D / 61 words / informational text

High frequency words:

and, away, big, has, with

Before reading

- Look at the cover and read the title.
- Possible discussion questions: "What is on the cover? Where have you seen donkeys? What do you know about donkeys?"

Look through all the pictures

- Using the language in the story, discuss what is happening in each picture.
- Help the children find the words that may be new to them: *along, another, and hee-haw*.
- Help the children find the high-frequency words: *and, away, big, has, and with*.

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 do donkeys like to eat? Which is bigger, a donkey or a horse?" Have students read the pages that support their answers.

- **Inferential comprehension:** The answers are in your head. Ask, "Why do you think donkeys need to be able to hear things from far away? Why do you think donkeys prefer to not be alone? Do you prefer to be alone or with other people? Why?"

Word work

- Have the students locate the high-frequency words in the text and practice writing them.
- Find and discuss the rhyming pair: *ear* and *hear*. Using magnetic letters, make other words with the same sound and pattern (*clear, dear, fear, gear, near, rear, smear, tear, year*).
- Ask children to find the pair of opposite words in the text: *big-small*. Opposites are also called *antonyms*.

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

- Have each student write and complete the following sentences: "*Here is a donkey on the farm. Donkeys like to _____.*" Then have the students draw a picture that corresponds to what they have written.

FUN FACT

Donkeys do not like to be alone and are highly social animals. Not only do they like to be around other donkeys, they can also be friends with horses, sheep, goats, and other small barnyard critters.

Teaching Points: Introducing new words; Practicing rhyming words; Introducing antonyms; Rereading.