

# Talking About Stories

## Owl Moon

by Jane Yolen; illustrations by John Schoenherr

In this book, a father and his young daughter go into the woods to see the Great Horned Owl. There are many interesting pictures and experiences in this book that you and your child can talk about as you read.

Here are some activities you can try with your child before, during, and after reading *Owl Moon* together. Don't try to do all the activities the first time you read the book. But don't worry! Young children love to hear stories read aloud over and over again, which gives them opportunities to learn new words, make predictions, and listen to the sounds of language. If your child likes this story, you'll have plenty of chances to read it again and try out all of the activities.

So, let's get started!

Before you read the book, show your child the cover and point to the words in the title: *Owl Moon*. Look at the picture on the cover and ask your child what he thinks might happen in the story. "Where do you think this story takes place? What is the weather like? What time of day does it take place?" Talk about snow, the moon, and trees. Just from looking at the picture, what does your child think it sounds like in that place?

As you read the story aloud, look for the father and little girl on each page. Talk about what else you see in the pictures. Try making some of the sounds you read about, like a train whistle, a dog, and the owl call the father uses. What are the sounds you make when it's very cold? What does it sound like when you walk in deep snow?

Some new words you and your child might come across while reading this book are *owling*, *statues*, *pointy*, *shadow*, *meadow*, and *echo*. Notice how *shadow*, *meadow* and *echo* all end with the same sound? Talk about these and other new words as you read together.

After you've read the book, talk about the things you can look for outside in your neighborhood or in a park. Take a walk and look for those things. In the story, the little girl has to keep very quiet. Ask your child to take a few moments, being as quiet as possible. Listen for all kinds of different sounds. Then, talk about and imitate the sounds you heard.

If your child likes *Owl Moon*, you might look in your library for some of these other books by Jane Yolen: *How Do Dinosaurs Go to School* and *Color Me a Rhyme: Nature Poems for Young Children*.



This information was produced by the National Center for Family Literacy for use on [www.thinkfinity.org](http://www.thinkfinity.org), a powerful educational platform supported by the Verizon Foundation. This information is may be reproduced for noncommercial purposes without permission.

Copyright © 2007 by the National Center for Family Literacy. Produced by the National Center for Family Literacy, 325 West Main Street, Suite 300, Louisville, KY, 40202-4237.

