

CAPS FOR SALE

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By Esphyr Slobodkina (Harper)
Themes: Humor/Animal Behavior

Grade Level: Pre-K-1

Running Time: 5 minutes, iconographic

SUMMARY

CAPS FOR SALE is about a peddler who walks along the countryside offering caps for sale. What is unusual about the peddler is that he chooses to carry his stock of caps on his head- one piled on top of the other.

One day, the peddler decides to rest by a large tree. While he naps, a group of monkeys snatch the caps from the peddler's head. When the peddler awakes, he orders the monkeys to give him back his caps. The monkeys refuse with a simple "tsz, tsz' tsz." At the end of the story, the peddler becomes so frustrated with the monkeys that he throws the one cap left on his head onto the ground in anger. The monkeys imitate the peddler's behavior, throwing all the caps down from the tree. The happy peddler returns the caps to his head and heads down the road calling, "Caps! Caps for sale! Fifty cents a cap!"

OBJECTIVES

- Children will learn to appreciate humor in storytelling.
- Children will investigate animal behavior
- Children will explore the ways goods are sold.

BEFORE VIEWING ACTIVITIES

Share the book CAPS FOR SALE with children. Then ask:

- How many of you have seen monkeys in the zoo?

Monkeys love to copy whatever you do, discuss monkey see, monkey do.

Explain that monkeys are very smart and have even gone up in space. They can ride bicycles; they are actors because they can copy people's behavior.

Play a simple game of "Simon Says" with children. Talk about how much fun it can be to imitate, to do exactly the same thing someone else is doing.

Discuss with the children the different ways their families can buy ice cream (large supermarket, small grocery store, ice cream truck, ice cream stands). Emphasize that in addition to ice cream, all kinds of foods and objects are sold in many different ways. Explain that long ago, and today in many countries, objects are sold by people, sometimes known as peddlers, who walk the city streets or country roads carrying things they want to sell. Ask children to describe situations where they may have seen people selling their wares in this fashion.

AFTER VIEWING ACTIVITIES

Supply a variety of hats that children can try on in the classroom. Then give children the opportunity to pile several of the hats on top of their heads at once and walk around the classroom pretending to be peddlers. Ask:

- How does it feel to carry the hats on your head?
- How far do you think you could walk this way?
- How would you feel if you were the peddler in the story and had your caps stolen?

After Children have experienced being peddlers, help them with a dramatization of CAPS FOR SALE. Encourage children pretending to be monkeys to behave in a silly, humorous way as they

steal the peddler's caps and, later, throw down the caps in exactly the same fashion as the "peddler."

Provide play money and objects that can be "bought and sold" in the classroom. Have children take turns pretending to be peddlers and consumers. Help the "consumers" count their money, offering the peddlers the appropriate amounts in exchange for the goods. As children work, encourage the "consumers" to think about how they will use the objects they are purchasing, and the "peddlers" to think about how they will use the money they are collecting.

Give the children an opportunity to think up a different version of CAPS FOR SALE- perhaps SHOES FOR SALE. Ask:

- What could the monkeys do with the shoes that would be funny?

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Caps for Sale. Folktale (fiction), Trade Book, Lexile 480. Caps for Sale is about a peddler who walks around selling caps that sit tall upon his head. When the peddler falls asleep under a tree, he awakes to find the caps gone. A band of mischievous monkeys in the tree are all wearing the caps. The peddler then tries to outwit the monkeys. Book Resources. Check your school or local library for this book. Caps for Sale By Esphyr Slobodkina. Lesson Resources. Trade Book Lesson.