

Rabbit's Snow Dance

A RIF GUIDE FOR EDUCATORS

Themes: Patience, Seasons, American Indian Culture

Book Brief: This fun and funny retelling of a traditional Iroquois fable follows Rabbit and his friends as he learns the importance of being patient.

Authors: James and Joseph Bruchac

Illustrator:

Jeff Newman

Content Connections:

Social Studies,
Science, Art, Music



TIME TO READ!



BEFORE WE READ, LET'S LOOK AT...

The Cover: Have students make predictions about the book based on the title and the cover illustration. Who are the animals on the

cover? What is Rabbit holding? What time of year do you think it is?

The Pictures: Flip briefly through the pages. How does the weather change during the story? What do you think that has to do with the title, *Rabbit's Snow Dance*?

Prior Knowledge: Do students know what a fable is? Explain that a fable is a kind of story, usually about animals, that has a moral or teaches a lesson. Can students think of any examples? What are the differences among a fable, myth, and fairy tale? With the class's help, make a Venn diagram on the board. Ask for examples of each.

Vocabulary: patience, chant, snowshoes, impatient, satisfied

Purpose for Reading: Every fable has a moral. As you read, pay attention to the moral of the story. What lesson does this fable teach?

WHILE WE READ

MONITORING COMPREHENSION

- ◆ How is Rabbit in the story different than rabbits are today?
- ◆ Why does Rabbit want it to snow?
- ◆ Which animals don't want it to snow yet? Why?

- ◆ Which animals sing along with Rabbit? Why?
- ◆ What happens while Rabbit is asleep?
- ◆ What happens to Rabbit's tail?



LET'S THINK ABOUT

Our Purpose: What lesson does Rabbit learn? Is there more than one moral to the story? Explain your answer. Can you think of any other fables or stories that have the same moral?

Extending Our Thinking: Rabbit upsets some of the other animals by changing the natural cycle of the seasons and making it snow in summer. Why does this hurt the other animals? If Rabbit's actions hurt a lot of animals, what effect do you think the actions of human beings have? How have humans upset the planet's natural cycle? Can you think of any examples of how human behavior has hurt animals by throwing nature "out of whack"? What can we do to help protect the earth?

NOTE TO EDUCATORS

- ◆ Extension Activities for Educators also available.
- ◆ Vocabulary Scaffold also available.



Reading Is
Fundamental