

Rabbit's Snow Dance

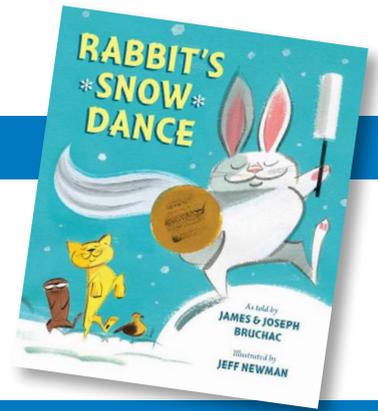
A RIF GUIDE FOR PARENTS AND FAMILIES

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



TIME TO READ!



Before reading, build background: What is the natural order of the seasons in this country? What is the weather like in each season? When does each season begin and end?

While reading, look for the lesson: This story is a traditional Iroquois fable. A fable is a story with

animal characters that teaches a lesson, or moral. What lesson does this story teach?

After reading, ask questions:

- ◆ Why did Rabbit want it to snow in summer?
- ◆ How did he hurt the other animals by being impatient?
- ◆ Do you think Rabbit learned his lesson in the end?

RELATED ACTIVITIES

FLOUR POWER

Materials: flour, pan or casserole dish

Fill a pan with a few inches of flour. Push down into the flour using one or two fingertips. How deep do your fingers sink? Is it easy to touch the bottom? Now, flatten your palm and push down with the same force using your whole hand. Does your hand sink as deep into the "snow"? Why not? Why can animals with big feet, like Rabbit, walk across deep snow without sinking?

TELLING TAILS

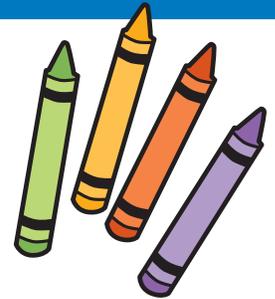
Materials: paper, pencil, crayons or markers

This story explains why rabbits have short tails. Think of another animal characteristic you could explain. Why do cows have spots? Why do giraffes have long necks? Why do dogs wag their tails? Be creative! Write a short story or draw a comic strip to explain why your animal is the way that it is. Draw a picture to go with your story, and remember to give it a title!

THE FOUR SEASONS

Materials: large white paper, pencil, crayons or markers

Fold the white paper into four parts; unfold it. In each box, use pencil to sketch a picture of a familiar outdoor setting, like your front yard or a nearby park. Draw the same picture in each box. Decorate the scene for each of the four different seasons. What does the place you drew look like in spring? Winter? Label each box with the season it shows.



TECHNOLOGY LINK

Visit www.youtube.com/watch?v=3M4GlxULTIg to watch Joe and Jesse Bruchac tell another traditional story in both English and Western Abenaki. Go to www.youtube.com/watch?v=blqpw8FRgGA to watch James Bruchac tell a different tale.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

OTHER BOOKS BY THIS AUTHOR

Buffalo Song (2008)
How Chipmunk Got His Stripes (2003)
A Boy Called Slow (1998)



Reading Is
Fundamental