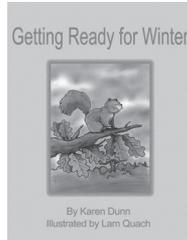


# GETTING READY FOR WINTER

By - Karen Dunn  
 Illustrated by - Lam Quach  
 Genre - Narrative  
**Set 15 - 199 Words**

## Building Anticipation – Setting the Context

Ask students: *What do you do to get ready for winter?* Make a chart of what various animals do to prepare for winter, based on what students already know or might guess. Be sure to include *squirrel* on the chart, to review the vocabulary word.



Recall and talk about the earlier Porcupine book, *Squirrels*, set 10.

## Introduction

Tell the children this is a story about getting ready for winter. Little Grey Squirrel asks the other animals to help him get ready for winter, but they are all too busy. Pose the question: *I wonder if anyone will help him?*

Give each student three sticky notes on which to note questions they wonder about as they read.

## Discussion – Book Talk

Talk about the students' questions. Ask if their questions were answered or if they are still wondering. Talk about how they might find the answers to their questions.

Read the story, *The Little Red Hen*. Talk about similar stories they know where an animal is looking for help. Have the children predict the outcomes in such stories and discuss their predictions.

## Responding Creatively – Independent Practice

Children can:

- create stick puppets for each of the animals in the story. Use the puppets to dramatize how each animal gets ready for winter.
- expand the chart by looking in other books and adding information about how other animals get ready for winter.
- dramatize the story by using the readers' theater script on the reproducible master.
- make a mural of all the animals in the story. Put a speech bubble above each animal with that character's words in it.

## Read Aloud Connections

*A Little Bit of Winter* by Paul Stewart, Harper-Trophy, 2000.  
*Animals in the Fall* by Gail Saunders-Smith, Pebble Books, 1997.  
*Bruno Falls Asleep* by Sylvie Daigneault, Harper Collins, 1999.  
*The Big Snow* by Berta Hader, Aladdin Paperbacks, 1993.

Learning about Language – Focused Teaching		
High Frequency Words	before, both, beside, stopped	Find these words on the word wall or in other books.
Word Families and Letter Clusters	<i>squ</i> combination - squirrel	Find other words that begin with <i>squ</i> - squash, squat, square, squishy, squeal.
Structural Features of Words	Plurals - Change <i>y</i> to <i>i</i> and add <i>es</i> as in berries  Drop silent <i>e</i> before adding <i>ing</i> as in coming	Word hunt for plural words. Make lists of plural words and their singular counterpart.  Make a T chart of words ending in <i>e</i> . In the right column add <i>ing</i> to each word.
Text Features	Quotation marks for dialogue	Make a chart of what each animal said with quotation marks around the words.

# Reproducible Master - Getting Ready for Winter



## Getting Ready for Winter

Characters

**Narrator, Little Grey Squirrel, Big Goose, Busy Beaver, Black Bear, Big Black Squirrel.**

Little Grey Squirrel: Winter is coming. I must find nuts for winter.

Little Grey Squirrel: Big Goose, can you help me  
gather nuts for winter?

Big Goose: No, Little Grey Squirrel.  
I must fly south and find grass and seeds to eat.

Little Grey Squirrel: Busy Beaver, can you help me  
gather nuts for winter?

Busy Beaver: No, Little Grey Squirrel.  
I must chop down these trees for winter food.

Little Grey Squirrel: Black Bear, can you help me  
find nuts for winter?

Black Bear: No, Little Grey Squirrel.  
I must eat a lot of berries before I go to sleep.

Little Grey Squirrel: Big Black Squirrel, can you help me  
find nuts for winter?

Narrator: *Big Black Squirrel looked at Little Grey Squirrel.*

Big Black Squirrel: Yes, I can help. You can dig beside me.  
There are lots of nuts for both of us.

Narrator: *When winter came, Little Grey Squirrel and  
Big Black Squirrel were safe inside a tree, eating nuts.*