

MRS. BARN OWL HELPS

By – Mary Labatt
 Illustrated by – Rebecca Buchanan
 Genre - Narrative
Set 12 - 144 Words

Building Anticipation – Setting the Context

It is recommended that this book be read after *Barn Owls*.

Introduce the story by remembering other informational books which have been read. *Remember we read an information book about barn owls? What are some things we learned about barn owls?*



Revisit the KWL chart. Tell the children: *Today we're going to read a storybook about barn owls, called 'Mrs. Barn Owl Helps'.* Discuss the difference between an information book and a storybook. Pose the question: *I wonder how she's going to help?*

Introduction

A picture walk should not be necessary for this book. Recall the special talents of a barn owl.

Tell the children: *Mrs. Barn Owl has a special talent that she will use to help one of her friends. Read to see how she helps her friend Mrs. Sheep.*

Discussion – Book Talk

Retell the story and talk about the story structure. Ask: *What special talents did Mrs. Barn Owl have that made her able to find the little lost lamb in the dark?*

Discuss: *How do you think the lamb was feeling? Why?*

Creative Response – Independent Practice

Children can:

- use the script on the reproducible master to do a readers' theater play.

Helping someone in trouble is a common theme for a story. Make connections with other stories about helping someone in trouble. Discuss earlier Porcupine books, *Superdog at the Crosswalk* (set 12), *Superdog Helps Mr. Black* (set 8), and *Big Teddy Gets Lost* (set 9).

- write a story about helping someone in trouble.

Read Aloud Connections

Benny Rabbit and the Owl by Joseph Low, Greenwillow Books, 1978.
Good Night Owl by Pat Hutchins, Puffin, 1973.
Old Hushwing by Alan Brown, Collins, 1998.
Owls (non-fiction) by Timothy Lexis Biel, Creative Education, 1989.
The Owl Who Was Afraid of the Dark by Jill Tomlinson, Candlewick Press, 2001.

Learning about Language – Focused Teaching

High Frequency Words	find, could, around, flew	Clap, chant and cheer the words. Find them on the word wall and in other books.
Word Families and Letter Clusters	<i>ight</i> family - night, fright, sight, light, might	Use movable letters to create the word family.
Structural Features of Words	cry - cried	Make a list of words ending in <i>y</i> . Lead students to generalize about changing <i>y</i> to <i>i</i> before adding <i>ed</i> .
Text Features	Abbreviation - Mrs.	Look at the names of the characters <i>Mrs. Barn Owl</i> and <i>Mrs. Sheep</i> . Make a list of other short form titles - <i>Mr., Dr., Ms.</i>



Mrs. Barn Owl Helps

Characters

Narrator 1, Narrator 2, Mrs. Barn Owl, Mrs. Sheep, Lamb.

Narrator 1: *The sky was black. The moon was big.*

Mrs. Barn Owl: Someone is sad. I will find out who it is.

Narrator 2: *Mrs. Barn Owl flew all around the farm.*

Mrs. Barn Owl: Oh, no! Someone left the gate open!

Mrs. Sheep: Baaaa! Baaaa!
Someone left the gate open.
I can't find my little lamb.

Mrs. Barn Owl: Whooo! Whooo!
I will help you find your little one.
I can see a long way at night.

Narrator 1: *Mrs. Barn Owl flew away.
She looked and looked.*

Mrs. Barn Owl: I see someone!
I see a little lamb.

Narrator 2: *Mrs. Barn Owl flew back to Mrs. Sheep.*

Mrs. Barn Owl: Whoo! Whooo!
Come and get your little one.

Mrs. Sheep: Baaa! Thank you, Mrs. Barn Owl.