



Iowa National Guard Youth and Teen Program
Family Programs Office
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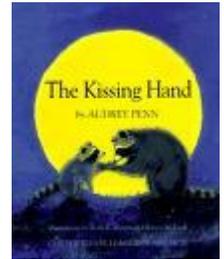


Book: The Kissing Hand

Author: Audrey Penn

Ages: 4-12

Lesson:



1. Begin by showing the students the cover of the book. Then read the title of the book to the children. Have the students infer what the book might be about based on the cover and title.
2. Why do you think the raccoon is kissing the hand of the little raccoon?
3. Begin reading the story, pausing throughout to ask the following questions:
 - a. Why do you think Chester Raccoon didn't want to go to school?
 - b. What are some things you have had to do in life that you were scared of at first? Why is it scary to start something new?
 - c. What do you think the secret is that Mrs. Raccoon knows?
 - d. What do you think the kissing hand is?
 - e. Why do you think Mrs. Raccoon kissed Chester's hand?
 - f. What are some things you think of that remind you of home?
 - g. When someone we love must go away for a long time, what are some things we can keep with us to remember him/her?
 - h. Why do you think Chester gave his mom a kissing hand?
4. After reading the story, ask the students to draw conclusions as to what the message was. How would they feel if their loved one had to be gone for a very long time?

Activities:

1. In the story, Chester goes to school at night and is home during the day. Explain what it means to be nocturnal. Then, have the students identify other nocturnal animals.
2. The Kissing Hand is a tradition in Chester's family. What is a tradition? Have the students write about the traditions their family has.
3. Have the students write their own Kissing Hand story...this time incorporating their family traditions.

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