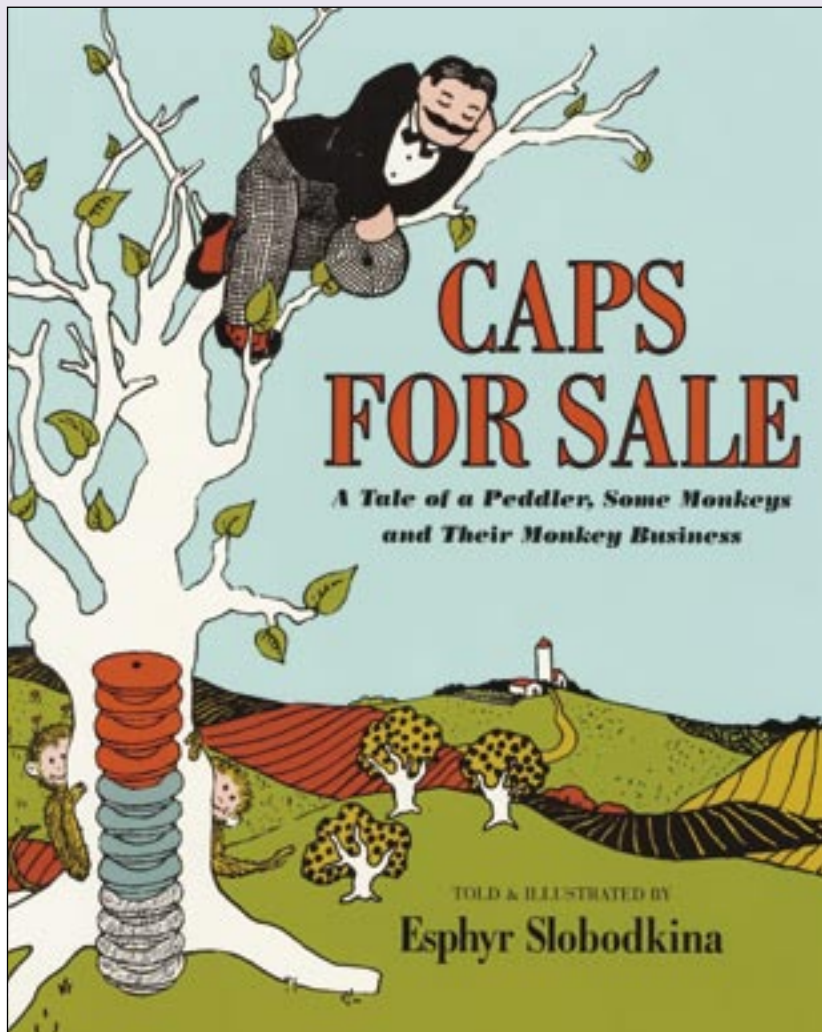


Caps for Sale

By Esphyr Slobodkina

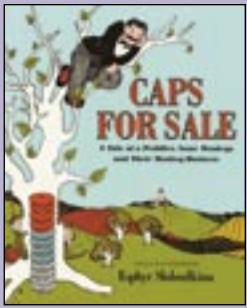
A band of mischievous monkeys take every one of a peddler's caps right off his head while he takes a nap under a tree.



First Reading

Before you read this story, **set the stage** for enjoying the book with an introduction. Here are some ideas or you could make up your own.

“Look at the cover of this book. Do you see something silly on the cover? Yes, it is a man in a tree! What do you think he is doing in the tree? Have you ever been up in a tree or way up high? What else do you see behind the tree? What do you think he is up to? Let’s read the story and find out.”



Read It Again (and Again) and Start a Conversation

“What is a cap? Where do you put it? Do you know another name for a cap?”

Can you carry things on your head?

The peddler does not sell any caps so he has no money to buy something to eat. Have you ever been hungry? What would you eat?

When the peddler wakes up from his nap, he can't find his caps. Have you ever looked for something you lost? Where did you look?

Looking up into the tree, the peddler sees monkeys.
What do you see when you look up into a tree?

Why do you think the peddler got angry?

How did the peddler get his caps back?

Were the monkeys playing a game with the peddler?

There were some new words for us in this story. Why is the man in the story called a peddler? That's right, he goes from place to place to sell things. What are his 'wares'? Yes, the caps are the things the peddler sells.

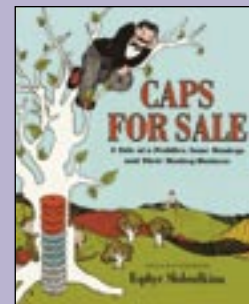
How many hats can you hold on your head?”

Play With Language

Game: I Spy

Play **I Spy** with your child. Be sure to use descriptive language and rhyming words. For example, you might say to your child, “I spy with my little eye something that rhymes with dirt and is the color red and you are wearing it.” Answer = shirt. Or simply identify something in the room and ask your child, “I see something that rhymes with bug. What do you think it could be?” Possible answers could be rug or mug.

From Fee, Fie, Phonemic Awareness by Mary Hohmann...et al.



Game: Hard “C” sound

Caps has a hard “cah” or “K” sound. What other words start with that sound?

Some examples are: car, carrot, computer, cat and cape.

Rhymes

My Hat

My hat it has three corners
(point to head, hold up three fingers)

Three corners has my hat.
(hold up three fingers, point to head)

And had it not three corners
(hold up three fingers)

It wouldn't be my hat.
(shake head and point to head)

All Around the Mulberry Bush

All around the mulberry bush

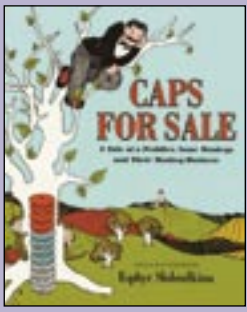
The monkey chased the weasel.

The monkey thought 'twas all in fun

POP—goes the weasel.

(Clap hands or bounce child to beat of rhyme and on the word “POP” hop up.)





Other Activities To Do Together

Make paper hats and decorate them (use paper plates for a base).

Gather all sorts of hats to identify, talk about who would wear them, etc. Encourage your child to make up stories and pretend he puts on a hat (sports hats and community helpers' hats, for example).

Toss bean bags into a hat.

Talk to your child when getting them dressed. "Here is your hat. It goes on your head." Let your child put the hat on himself or on your head. Reinforce by saying "That's right! Hats go on your head!"

Play a "copy me" action game like "Monkey see, Monkey do, Monkey do the same as you" or follow the leader.

Act out the story *Caps for Sale* using hats.

Visit the zoo and be sure to watch the monkeys.

More Books About Hats and Monkeys

Cat in the Hat by Dr. Seuss

Curious George by Magret Rey

A Hat for Minerva Louise by Janet Stoeke

Old Hat, New Hat by Stan & Jan Berenstain

Tom & Pippo Read a Story by Helen Oxenbury

Whose Hat? by Margaret Miller

