

## Teacher’s Guide

### The Mountain Hermit’s Animal Tales

An Early Chapter Book Collection

#### Book Information

- Format: Early Chapter Book Collection (3 stories)
- Reading Level: Grades 1-3 (Ages 6-8)
- Guided Reading Level: K-M
- Themes: Family, Nature, Animals, Belonging
- Stories: Squirrel Tales, Wolf Tales, Bear Tales

#### Reading Support Strategies

- 1. Before Reading:**
  - Picture walk through chapters
  - Predict what might happen
  - Connect to children’s experiences with:
    - Animals
    - Families
    - Forest/nature
    - Being lost/found
- 2. During Reading:**
  - Stop and predict
  - Visualize scenes
  - Track new animal vocabulary
  - Discuss feelings of characters
  - Notice repeated phrases/patterns
- 3. After Reading:**
  - Retell story events
  - Compare different animal families
  - Share favorite parts
  - Connect to personal experiences

### Vocabulary Development

1. **Nature Words:**
  - Forest
  - Seasons
  - Weather
  - Plants
2. **Animal Terms:**
  - Pack
  - Den
  - Nest
  - Hibernate
3. **Action Words:**
  - Scamper
  - Howl
  - Lumber
  - Gather
4. **Teaching Strategies:**
  - Picture clues
  - Context hints
  - Word walls
  - Movement activities

### Comprehension Activities

1. **Simple Mapping:**
  - Draw the child’s journey
  - Show animal homes
  - Create story sequence
2. **Character Webs:**
  - Animal families
  - Special traits
  - Helper characters
3. **Story Sequence:**
  - Beginning/Middle/End
  - First/Next/Last
  - Season changes
4. **Making Connections:**
  - Text to self
  - Text to text
  - Text to world

### Hands-On Learning

1. **Movement Activities:**
  - Act like squirrels
  - Move like wolves
  - Pretend to fish like bears
  - Forest animal charades
2. **Art Projects:**
  - Draw animal homes
  - Make stick puppets
  - Create forest scenes
  - Design story maps
3. **Drama Corner:**
  - Set up forest den
  - Create animal masks
  - Act out stories
  - Puppet shows

### Writing Extensions

1. **Simple Projects:**
  - Animal journal
  - Story sequence
  - Character cards
  - Thank you notes to animals
2. **Group Writing:**
  - Class animal tale
  - New origin story
  - Forest rules
  - Animal family album

### Science Connections

1. **Animal Habits:**
  - What animals eat
  - Where animals live
  - How animals move
  - Animal families
2. **Seasons:**
  - Weather changes
  - Animal adaptation
  - Plant life
  - Forest homes

### Social-Emotional Learning

1. **Family:**
  - Different kinds of families
  - Helping each other
  - Being part of a group
  - Saying goodbye
2. **Feelings:**
  - Being lost
  - Making friends
  - Learning new things
  - Going home

### Assessment Ideas

1. **Reading Skills:**
  - Story retelling
  - Character naming
  - Sequence cards
  - Picture ordering
2. **Comprehension:**
  - Answer simple questions
  - Draw favorite parts
  - Explain animal behaviors
  - Share story lessons

### Parent Involvement

1. **At-Home Reading:**
  - Reading schedule
  - Discussion prompts
  - Activity suggestions
  - Vocabulary practice
2. **Projects:**
  - Nature walks
  - Animal watching
  - Story sharing
  - Drawing together

### Sensitivity Notes

1. **Topics to Preview:**
  - Being separated from family
  - Animal hunting (mentioned gently)
  - Living with strangers
  - Change and adaptation
2. **Support Strategies:**
  - Focus on positive outcomes
  - Emphasize safety
  - Celebrate helping others
  - Acknowledge feelings

### Additional Resources

1. **Class Materials:**
  - Animal pictures
  - Forest posters
  - Simple maps
  - Season cards
2. **Book Connections:**
  - Other animal stories
  - Forest books
  - Family tales
  - Nature guides

### Extension Activities

1. **Nature Study:**
  - Local animals
  - Seasonal changes
  - Plant growth
  - Weather watching
2. **Community Links:**
  - Nature centers
  - Parks
  - Animal experts
  - Story readers

Remember to: - Keep activities short and engaging - Use plenty of visual supports - Include movement breaks - Make learning playful - Build confidence gradually