

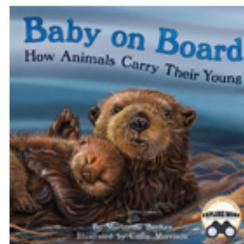
Playing with Poetry

Introduction

The book *Baby on Board: How Animals Carry Their Young* introduces students to different ways animal parents carry their young. In this activity, students write a haiku poem about one of the animals. (Grades 1-3)

Materials

- The book *Baby on Board*
- Reproducible bookmarks—1 per child, free download www.dawnpub.com/activities



Procedure

1. Read aloud *Baby on Board*. Have students notice the difference between the rhyming verses and the information at the bottom of the page.
2. Give each child a bookmark and have students pair up with a partner who has the same animal. Tell them that they will work together to use the facts from the book to write a special kind of poem about their animal called a haiku.
3. Explain haiku poetry by telling children that it's a kind of poem from Japan and has been around for many centuries. The poem has three lines of 17 syllables. (The first line has 5 syllables, the second line has 7 syllables, and the third line has 5 syllables.)
4. Using the haiku below as an example, have pairs work together to identify the syllables.

Sloths are very slow.
They sleep upside-down in trees.
That is where they live.

5. Have pairs of students share their haikus, following the order of animals as they're introduced in the book.

Variation: Students may choose to write their haiku without including the animal's name in the verse. Then when they read it aloud, other students can guess what animal the haiku is describing.

Standards Alignment

Next Generation Science Standards (DCI: K-2)

Life Science

- (A) Structures and Processes
- (B) Growth and Development of Organisms
- (C) Information Processing

LS3: Heredity:

- (A) Inheritance of Traits

Common Core ELA (K-2)

Reading: Literature

Range of Reading and Level of Text:

K.1, 1.1, 2.1, 3.1