



Story 11. Suzie Squirrel and the Acorns

Suzie Squirrel is one of the busiest squirrels in the park. She spends all day long scurrying through the grass and dry leaves in search of nuts. Suzie knows that a job is much easier if you make a game out of it. So Suzie and her friends often play games while they work.

For example, one day Mother Squirrel said to Suzie, "Grandma and Grandpa are coming to visit us today, so I'm going to fix their favorite dinner—acorn stew. When you go out to look for nuts today, I want you to gather only acorns.

"You can tell an acorn from the other nuts by the cap it wears. An acorn is round and hard, and it smells like other nuts; but it is the only nut that wears a cap. Here's a basket. I want it filled to the top with acorns."

Off Suzie went to the park. She stopped under the oak tree and began sniffing. "Here's a nut. Let's see if it's an acorn. It's round. It's hard. It smells like a nut, and it has a cap. It's an acorn! I know what I'll do to have fun today. I'll draw faces on the acorns. If they can wear caps, they can have faces."

Suzie took a crayon out of her pocket and drew a happy face on the acorn. She even colored his cap. "This is fun," thought Suzie as she hurried to find another acorn. First, she made sure that it had a cap, then she drew a face. She drew happy faces, and sad faces, and silly faces. In no time, she had her basket filled with nuts, and every one was an acorn. Suzie had been very careful about that.

Follow-up Activities

1. Story Lesson

Say, "Today I want to see if you can be as careful as Suzie in finding things. Suzie had to look for a cap. You will have to listen for a word. Listen . . . say *acorn*. Do you hear the /ā/ sound in *acorn*? Yes. *Acorn* has two parts. The first part says /ā/, so you can hear the /ā/ sound in *acorn*."

"Let's try another word. Say *popcorn*. Do you hear *pop* in *popcorn*? Yes. Say *popcorn*. Do you hear *may* in *popcorn*? No. *May* is not part of *popcorn*. Say *popcorn*. Do you hear *corn* in *popcorn*? Yes."

Continue this activity with other two-syllable words. If necessary, draw dashes to distinguish parts and clarify the presence or absence of specific words. Begin with compound words or words that contain meaningful parts. Use the list below.

airplane	bedroom	football	into	railroad	toothpaste
almost	birthday	forgive	okay	reindeer	walnut
baby	cartoon	good night	outside	someone	window
baseball	cupcake	inside	pillow	toothbrush	yellow

Refer to Word List A5 for additional two-syllable words.

At the conclusion of this lesson, give each child a copy of the acorn illustration on the next page. Tell the children to draw a face on the last acorn, then color all the acorns.

Name _____ Date _____

