



Knuffle Bunny

by Mo Willems

Knuffle (The “k” is silent.) Bunny connects to your child’s strong attachment to a beloved possession. As Trixie’s distress at the loss of her stuffed bunny sends her parents into a panic, you and your child might remember a similar experience. Mo Willems will impress you with his clever combination of illustrations and pictures as the story unrolls on a lovely afternoon in Brooklyn. The unique blend of drawing and photography earned this book a Caldecott Honor Award in 2005. Its popularity has led to two additional books by Mr. Willems about *Knuffle Bunny*. A musical written about this book has been performed at The Kennedy Center to sold-out audiences and enjoyed in other locations around the country.

Activating Prior Knowledge and making personal connections to elements of the story, such as the setting, increase comprehension. If your child has prior knowledge of life in a big city, many connections will be made to city scenes in the photographs.

In an article on the importance of activating “**Background Knowledge**,” Stangman and Hall (National Center on Accessing the General Curriculum, 2009) state, “Teachers can facilitate their students’ literacy success by helping them to build and activate background knowledge.” Since you are your child’s first teacher, early instruction using this Reading Comprehension Best Practice is up to you. If your child doesn’t have any connections to city life, you will spend more time on the First Reading as you build knowledge about urban living by discussing the photos. Does your child have **prior knowledge** on the loss of special possessions or having a tantrum when feeling misunderstood? Great opportunities to build connections to the text and increase comprehension!

Share connections that come to your mind. Use sentence builders such as: This is just like....., or This reminds me of..... Many times something visible in the illustration or photo reminds us of something invisible (a memory) that can be connected to the scene. All connections are valuable!