

Early Learning Express: October 2016

Hats! Hats! Hats! Our theme was hats!

Beginning with Ann Morris' book, *Hats! Hats! Hats!*, we took a trip around the world to see oh so many different kinds of hats – soft hats, hard hats; work hats, play hats; sun hats and cozy warm hats. Sueño brought a box full of artifacts, too. Hats of every category to model and touch and see in real life.

After this, we turned towards the fiction selections of our story time with two stories by Jon Klassen. First, we read the book *This is Not My Hat* (2013 Caldecott Medal recipient) in which a small fish steals the hat off of a very large sleeping fish. The small narrator feels quite confident that he is going to get away with this naughty deed, by hiding “where the plants grow tall and close together.” With pictures that tell more of the story than the words, this book requires children to fill in the narrative gaps.

Finally, Sueño broke out her shoebox cranky to show her puppet rendition of Jon Klassen's *I Want My Hat Back*. Again, the pictures speak louder than words as a bear searches for his missing hat. Who has it? Will he be able to get it back? How? Well, that depends on how interpret this ambiguous ending!

Towards the end of the month, ELE visitors sang the song *Farmer Brown had Five Red Apples* with Sueño as her Farmer Brown puppet picked apples and gobbled them down. Farmer Brown isn't the only one gathering apples and gobbling delicious harvests up. *The Busy Little Squirrel* by Nancy Tafuri was also out on the lookout for good things to eat. This simple and repetitive book allowed even the youngest children to help with the reading as different animals ask the squirrel to join them in their fall activities. Alas, squirrel was too busy to join any of them.



And to wrap up October, we read Ed Emberly's *Go Away, Big Green Monster* in which a monster slowly appears through a series of colored cutout pages. But once the entire face is there, we have the power to make the scary apparition disappear, simply by telling it to go away, piece by piece. Kids love the magical way the pages make the-not-too-scary monster appear and disappear. We simply had to read it twice at every stop!