

# Bark, George

## A CLEL Silver Bell Award Book for TALK

by Jules Feiffer  
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George, a puppy, can't seem to bark. Instead he makes all sorts of other animal sounds until his mother takes him to the vet to find out why. The animal noises in *Bark, George* are an effective way to explore language sounds with young children, and the silliness of this story and its simple structure create a highly enjoyable reading experience.

### Activity Ideas for *Bark, George*:

- Use die cut shapes, clip art images, stickers, or stamps to create several sets of farm animals from the book—cows, pigs, ducks, and cats. Have the children sort them into piles so all of the cows are together, all of the pigs, and so on. Noticing how objects are similar and different is a skill children will use when they are learning the different letter shapes of the alphabet.
- Play a guessing game with the children. Say, "I am thinking of an animal that goes 'Quack, quack'" and let them tell you who makes that sound. Let them have a turn to give you an animal sound to guess! Playing games with animal sounds helps to build the phonological awareness skills children will use to sound out words when they read.
- Make a George puppet out of a paper bag. Let children choose a color for George and use a crayon to scribble it all over the bag before you draw or glue on ears, nose, and eyes. Holding crayons and making marks are pre-writing skills that prepare children for writing letters and words.
- After reading the book together a few times, give the book to a child and ask them to turn the pages and tell you what happens on each page. Pretending to read a familiar story by looking at the pictures gives children a chance to start thinking of themselves as readers, which can motivate them to learn to read words.

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The CLEL Bell Picture Book Awards are given to books that provide excellent support of early literacy development in young children. For more information and for other activity sheets, visit <http://www.clel.org> and select the CLEL Bell Awards tab.



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