

Comprehension questions were created using the following Jan Brett books:

- The Mitten
- Gingerbread Friends
- Annie and the Wild Animals
- The Valentine Bears
- Berlioz the Bear
- The Three Snow Bears
- The Hat
- Trouble With Trolls
- Comet's Nine Lives
- Honey, Honey...Lion
- Daisy Comes Home

Some follow-up activities are suggested for a few of the lessons. I used Boardmaker<sup>®</sup> to create and laminate pictures that went along with each book. This way, students had a visual that helped them re-tell the story, answer questions, describe the characters, etc. Jan Brett's website ([janbrett.com](http://janbrett.com)) also has several coloring pages and activities that go along with her books.

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The Mitten by Jan Brett  
Comprehension Questions

1. What was the boy's name in the story?
  - a. Ricki
  - b. Nicki
  - c. Noah
2. Who was Baba?
  - a. Nicki's grandfather
  - b. Nicki's mother
  - c. Nicki's grandmother
3. What color mittens did Nicki want?
  - a. Black
  - b. Yellow
  - c. White
4. How are a mitten and a glove alike? Different?
5. What was the order of the animals who crawled into the mitten?
  - a. Mole
  - b. Rabbit
  - c. Hedgehog
  - d. Owl
  - e. Badger
  - f. Fox
  - g. Bear
  - h. Mouse
6. What is a hedgehog covered with?
  - a. Fur
  - b. Prickles
  - c. Hair
7. What are talons?
  - a. Sharp claws
  - b. Sharp teeth
  - c. Sharp ears
8. What was the last animal to crawl into the mitten?
  - a. Mole
  - b. Owl
  - c. Mouse
9. Why did the bear sneeze?
  - a. The mouse's whiskers tickled him
  - b. He smelled pepper
  - c. He had allergies
10. What did Baba look for when Nicki came home?
  - a. To see if Nicki was safe
  - b. To see if Nicki had both his mittens
  - c. Both of the above

Gingerbread Friends by Jan Brett  
Comprehension Questions

Vocabulary: scrumptious, sassy, statues, elegant, petticoats

1. Who did the Gingerbread Baby live with?
  - a. Mikey
  - b. Mattie
  - c. Richie
2. Where did Mattie and his friends go?
  - a. To ski
  - b. To school
  - c. To Florida
3. Where did the Gingerbread Baby stop first?
  - a. The grocery store
  - b. The bakery
  - c. The shoe store
4. What did the Gingerbread Baby see swimming on a sea?
  - a. 5 birds
  - b. 6 cows
  - c. 7 swans
5. What was nibbling on the Gingerbread Baby's marshmallow pom-pom?
  - a. A chicken
  - b. A boy
  - c. A mouse
6. Who was chasing the Gingerbread Baby? \*\*all are correct
  - a. Mouse
  - b. The cat
  - c. The baker
  - d. His wife
  - e. Rooster
  - f. Fox
7. What did he follow?
  - a. A trail of marshmallows
  - b. A trail of peanuts
  - c. A trail of cupcakes
8. What was waiting for him?
  - a. Mattie
  - b. A whole bunch of gingerbread friends
  - c. The mouse

Annie and the Wild Animals by Jan Brett  
Comprehension Questions

Vocabulary: lonely, tame, snarling, stag, grumpy

1. What was the girl's name in the story?
  - a. Abby
  - b. Annie
  - c. Alexis
2. What was Annie's cat's name?
  - a. Taffy
  - b. Corn cake
  - c. Tangerine
3. What unusual things was Taffy doing?
  - a. Eating more
  - b. Sleeping all day
  - c. Curling up in strange places
  - d. All of the above
4. What did Annie place at the edge of the woods?
  - a. Spaghetti and meatballs
  - b. A corn cake
  - c. A cupcake
5. Why wasn't the moose a good animal to tame?
  - a. Too mean
  - b. Too big
  - c. Too small
6. Why wasn't the wildcat a good animal to tame?
  - a. Too mean
  - b. Too furry
  - c. Too orange
7. Why wasn't the bear a good animal to tame?
  - a. Too loud
  - b. Too big
  - c. Too grumpy
8. Why weren't the stag and the wolf good animals to tame?
  - a. Not soft
  - b. Not friendly
  - c. Both of the above
9. Why were the wild animals roaring?
  - a. They were sad.
  - b. They were excited.
  - c. They were hungry.
10. What did Taffy bring with her when she returned?
  - a. A ball of yarn
  - b. 3 piglets
  - c. 3 kittens

The Valentine Bears by Jan Brett  
Comprehension Questions

Vocabulary: snug, huddled, haze, muzzle, pried, hollow

1. When did the bears go to sleep?
  - a. December 14
  - b. October 14
  - c. February 14
2. What did Mrs. Bear do first?
  - a. Made a sign
  - b. Went back to sleep
  - c. Ate breakfast
3. Where did Mrs. Bear tack her sign?
  - a. To the alarm clock
  - b. To the wall
  - c. Outside on the door
4. What did Mrs. Bear dig up?
  - a. Leaves
  - b. Eggs
  - c. Honey pot
5. What are Crispy Critters?
  - a. Rice krispies
  - b. Flies and spiders
  - c. Dried beetles and bugs
6. How many poems had Mrs. Bear made during the summer?
  - a. 2
  - b. 4
  - c. 1
7. What happened when Mrs. Bear tried to wake Mr. Bear?
  - a. He wanted to sleep for another 5 weeks.
  - b. He cried.
  - c. He woke up.
8. What happened when Mrs. Bear was about to throw ice water on Mr. Bear?
  - a. He shivered.
  - b. He yelled, "Surprise!"
  - c. He still didn't wake up.
9. What did Mr. Bear give Mrs. Bear?
  - a. Chocolate covered cherries
  - b. Chocolate covered ants
  - c. Flowers
10. What did they do after they ate breakfast?
  - a. Took a walk outside
  - b. Went back to sleep until spring
  - c. Washed the dishes

Berlioz the Bear by Jan Brett  
Comprehension Questions

Vocabulary: orchestra, gala, double bass, lurched, bragged, tailcoats, encore

1. What was wrong with Berlioz's double bass?
  - a. It was broken.
  - b. It was buzzing.
  - c. He forgot it at a friend's house.
2. What happened to the bandwagon?
  - a. The wheel got stuck in a hole.
  - b. The wagon was too full.
  - c. It was stolen.
3. What did the mule do after the wheel got stuck?
  - a. Sat down
  - b. Ran away
  - c. Laughed
4. Who tried to pull the bandwagon out first?
  - a. A lion
  - b. A horse
  - c. A rooster
5. Who was watching from the top of a fence?
  - a. A bird
  - b. A tabby cat
  - c. A turtle
6. Who came along next?
  - a. Horse
  - b. Schnauzer
  - c. Bee
7. Who was the next animal?
  - a. Horse
  - b. Fox
  - c. Billy goat
8. What animal thought it would be easy because he pulls things all day?
  - a. Plow horse
  - b. Pig
  - c. Cow
9. What flew out of the double bass?
  - a. A bee
  - b. A bird
  - c. A dragonfly
10. What does "encore" mean?
  - a. Stop playing
  - b. Play some more
  - c. Let's dance

## The Three Snow Bears

By Jan Brett

1. What other story is similar to this one?
  - a. Little Red Riding Hood
  - b. Goldilocks and the Three Bears
  - c. The Three Little Pigs
2. What was the girl's name?
  - a. Aloo-ki
  - b. Boo-ki
  - c. Zoo-ki
3. What did Aloo-ki lose?
  - a. Her boots
  - b. Her hat
  - c. Her dog team
4. Why were the bears taking a walk?
  - a. To get some fresh air
  - b. To let their soup cool
  - c. To fish
5. Why didn't Aloo-ki like biggest bowl of soup?
  - a. Too cold
  - b. Too hot
  - c. Too spicy
6. Why didn't Aloo-ki like the middle-sized boots?
  - a. Too fancy
  - b. Too big
  - c. Too small
7. Where did Aloo-ki fall asleep?
  - a. In the lumpy bed
  - b. In the soft bed
  - c. In the smallest bed
8. Who saved the dog team?
  - a. A man walking by
  - b. The three bears
  - c. No one
9. What did Aloo-ki see when she woke up?
  - a. 3 feet
  - b. 3 noses
  - c. 3 chairs
10. What did Aloo-ki hear as she was riding away?
  - a. "Go away!"
  - b. "Bye-bye!"
  - c. "Come back!"

Suggested Follow-Up Activity: compare this story to Goldilocks and the Three Bears

The Hat  
By Jan Brett

1. What was the girl's name?
  - a. Lori
  - b. Elizabeth
  - c. Lisa
2. What did Lisa do with her woolen clothes?
  - a. Washed them
  - b. Hung them on the clothesline
  - c. Put them on
3. What happened when Hedgie poked his nose in the stocking?
  - a. It got stuck on his prickles.
  - b. He crawled inside.
  - c. He ripped it.
4. What did Hedgie tell the hen when she asked what was on his head?
  - a. "It's my new hat!"
  - b. "It got stuck!"
  - c. "It's my new blanket!"
5. Who laughed at Hedgie next?
  - a. A mouse
  - b. A boy
  - c. A gander
6. Who laughed at Hedgie from a tree?
  - a. A bird
  - b. A barn cat
  - c. An owl
7. Who did Hedgie see next?
  - a. Farm dog
  - b. Sheep
  - c. A boy
8. Who did Hedgie see after the farm dog?
  - a. A farmer
  - b. Pigs
  - c. A beaver
9. Who was the last animal to see Hedgie with his hat?
  - a. The horse
  - b. The bird
  - c. The chicken
10. What did Lisa see after she got the stocking back?
  - a. All the animals had on a piece of her clothing.
  - b. All the animals were eating.
  - c. All the animals were sleeping.

Suggested Follow-up Activity: Draw Hedgie with his hat on.

## Trouble With Trolls

By Jan Brett

1. What was the girl's name in the story?
  - a. Tina
  - b. Treva
  - c. Dreama
2. Who was Treva going to visit?
  - a. Her cousin
  - b. Her brother
  - c. Her grandmother
3. What did the first troll growl?
  - a. "Give me money!"
  - b. "I want skis!"
  - c. "I want dog!"
4. What did Treva use to trick the first troll?
  - a. Her belt
  - b. Her mittens
  - c. Her skis
5. What did Treva use to trick the second troll?
  - a. Her mittens
  - b. Her pom-pom hat
  - c. Her sled
6. What did Treva use to trick the third troll?
  - a. A pot
  - b. Her shoes
  - c. Her sweater
7. What did Treva use to trick the twin trolls?
  - a. Her necklace
  - b. Her books
  - c. Her boots
8. Why did Treva hold up her skis?
  - a. So the sun would make them sparkle
  - b. So the trolls would get scared
  - c. So she could throw them
9. What did the trolls want Treva to do?
  - a. Fall
  - b. Fly
  - c. Jump
10. What happened at the end of the story?
  - a. Treva got hurt.
  - b. Treva yelled.
  - c. Treva and Tuffi got away from the trolls.

Suggested Follow-up Activity: janbrett.com has pictures the kids can color of Treva. You might also do a barrier activity where you tell each other (or have the kids tell each other) directions to make the ugliest troll.

Comet's Nine Lives by Jan Brett  
Comprehension Questions

Vocab: foxgloves, woozy, scalloper, annual, infractions, beacon

1. Where was Comet born?
  - a. Nantucket Island
  - b. Maryland
  - c. In a lighthouse
2. What did he eat that cost him one life?
  - a. Mushrooms
  - b. Foxgloves
  - c. A hot dog
3. Why did he lose a second life?
  - a. He fell in the ocean.
  - b. He was eaten by a dog.
  - c. He was buried under a pile of books.
4. What did he hear while he was recovering from drowning?
  - a. Dogs barking
  - b. The ocean
  - c. Music
5. What did he fall into that cost him his fourth life?
  - a. A wishing well
  - b. A tuba
  - c. A river
6. What did he climb into next?
  - a. A tunnel
  - b. A box
  - c. A bike basket
7. Who gave Comet a ride around the island?
  - a. Wally
  - b. Waffles
  - c. Pancakes
8. Why did the actress sneeze?
  - a. She was allergic to cats.
  - b. She had a cold.
  - c. She smelled pepper.
9. Why did a huge wave crash over Comet?
  - a. It was Hurricane Elmadore.
  - b. Comet swam out too far.
  - c. It was winter.
10. Who did he spend the rest of his life with?
  - a. The lighthouse keeper
  - b. The lighthouse cat
  - c. The lighthouse mouse

Honey...Honey...Lion! by Jan Brett  
Comprehension Questions

Vocab:

1. Who does the honey badger work with to get honey?
  - a. Honeyguide
  - b. Honeybird
  - c. Honeyworm
2. Why did Honeyguide call out, "No fair, no fair!"
  - a. Honey badger was too big to fit into his burrow
  - b. Honey badger ran away
  - c. Honey badger didn't share the honey
3. Where was the first place Honeyguide led the badger the next day?
  - a. Across the water hole
  - b. Through a log
  - c. Up a tree
4. What did the badger have to scramble to the top of?
  - a. A termite mound
  - b. A bush
  - c. A rock
5. What rattled as the badger made his way through?
  - a. Papyrus
  - b. Leaves
  - c. The water hole
6. Why did badger keep going even though he was huffing and puffing?
  - a. He wanted the delicious honey.
  - b. He needed some water.
  - c. He wanted a nap.
7. What did Honeyguide dive under?
  - a. A log
  - b. A tree
  - c. A rock
8. What jumped out at the badger?
  - a. A giraffe
  - b. An ant
  - c. A lion
9. Where did the badger end up?
  - a. Far into his burrow
  - b. Under a rock
  - c. Up a tree
10. What is the moral of this story?
  - a. Share
  - b. Be careful
  - c. Don't be afraid

## Daisy Comes Home

By Jan Brett

Vocabulary: perch, jostled, damp, jetty, nipped, cormorants,

1. Why was Daisy picked on by the other hens?
  - a. She was too big.
  - b. She was too small.
  - c. She didn't lay enough eggs.
2. What did the red characters painted on the sides of the baskets mean?
  - a. "Happy Daisy"
  - b. "Happy Hens"
  - c. "Happy Eggs"
3. Where did Daisy end up sleeping at night?
  - a. Under a tree
  - b. On the floor
  - c. In a cage
4. What did Daisy find to sleep in?
  - a. A box
  - b. Grass
  - c. A basket
5. What did Daisy do to get away from the dog?
  - a. Beat the air with her wings
  - b. Ran away
  - c. Bit him
6. What did Daisy do to get away from the buffalo?
  - a. Flapped her wings
  - b. Nipped him
  - c. Both
7. What did the fisherman exclaim when he grabbed Daisy?
  - a. "I got you!"
  - b. "Big chicken!"
  - c. "Finders Keepers!"
8. What did Mei Mei do to get Daisy to come to her?
  - a. Yelled "gu-gu-gu!"
  - b. Yelled "come back!"
  - c. Yelled at the fisherman
9. What did Daisy do the next time the other hens tried to push her off the perch?
  - a. She fought back.
  - b. She fell off the perch.
  - c. She didn't do anything.
10. What happened at the end of the story?
  - a. The hens were sleeping quietly.
  - b. Daisy ran away.
  - c. The hens were being noisy.