

Make a Picture or Mental Image

Mouse Mess

By Linnea Riley

I would like to be this mouse! Make a mess in the kitchen and leave it for someone else to clean. Everyone can identify with a dirty kitchen, even children. That makes this book a perfect candidate for a mind movie. Here's how...

Tell the children that they will be making a movie in their heads. The show will be about a hungry mouse looking for food. He finds plenty, but creates a huge mess in the kitchen along the way. Now, read the first several pages. When it is time for the mouse to eat, turn the book around so students can't see the illustrations and text. Instruct the children to close their eyes and make pictures in their heads to match the words you read. I bet they can see the Oreos, the peanut butter, apple cores, crackers and cheese in their mind. Near the end of the book, when the mouse is done eating and begins to take a bath, turn the book back around. Ask the students to open their eyes as you read to the end.

Next, ask students what pictures they "saw" in their heads. You could even make a list of the items the mouse ate. Share with the children that when you make movies in your head, it will help you understand the story and remember more details. That is what good readers do! To finish the lesson, read the entire story again. This time, share the pictures and text all the way through. Ask students if their mind movie matched the pictures in the book. Of course, you'll get an enthusiastic yes. Yahoo...share with them that the strategy worked! You don't always need pictures in books; your mind can create its own pictures to match the words.

So next time I have a messy kitchen, I'll think back to the pictures in my head from *Mouse Mess*. "Who made this awful mess?" Then, I'll blame the mouse!

Reviewed by Trish Prentice www.thedailycafe

