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I Heard Said the Bird

Polly Berrien Berends

PICTURES BY Brad Sneed
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A bird flew into the barnyard.

"I heard, said the bird."

"I heard ..."

"What?" asked all the animals.

What did you hear?"

"I heard, said the bird, there's a new one coming."
Soon the barnyard was busy with the news.

Everyone began asking, "What is the New One going to be?"
They asked the duck,

"Is the NEW ONE a duckling?"

But the duck said, "No."
They asked the pig,

"Is the NEW ONE a piglet?"

But the pig said, "No."
They asked the goose and the hare.
They asked the mouse....
and the mare.

They asked here and there and everywhere.

But everybody said, "No."
"How do you know there's a NEW ONE coming?"

said the animals all together.
"I heard," said the bird.

"How?" said the cow.

"When?" said the hen.

"Where?" said the mare.

"In the house?" squeaked the mouse.
Just then a small boy came out.

"What's going on?" he asked.

"Well," the animals told him, "it's about the NEW ONE."

"I heard," said the bird.
"How?" said the cow.

"When?" said the hen.

"Where?" said the mare.

"In the house?" squeaked the mouse.
"YES," said the small boy.

"YES, WHAT?" shouted all the animals.
"Yes," said the small boy,

"the NEW ONE is in the house.

And if you'll be very quiet, I'll let you see him.

"Ooooh!" said the animals all together.
Then, very quietly, the small boy led the animals to the house. And, very quietly, they all walked to the window and looked inside.
"It's a new baby," the small boy whispered.
"My word!" said the bird.

"And how!" said the cow.

"Of course," said the horse.
"I declare!" said the hare.
Guide to assist students at different levels to participate in this adapted literature.

The following are suggestions of objects that can be used to accompany each picture within the story to enhance the individual’s understanding of the literature.

The use of the Fisher Price (FP) Barnyard toy could be one idea to explain to the child that the story takes place in a barnyard. The building and animals would make great tactile objects throughout the story.

Picture 1- Bird – Instead of the FP toy you could use a puppet or make a bird. You could use a sock or bag and stuff it then apply feathers. You could also use a paper plate, decorate it as a bird and glue a tongue depressor on as a handle.

Picture 2 – Barnyard with animals – Instead of the FP toys you could make a barnyard with a shoebox and decorate accordingly. You can use Dixie paper cups and decorate with construction paper to represent animals. The cups will allow them to be stood up and moved around.

Picture 3 – Duck – Instead of FP toy you and make a puppet or use a paper plate decorated as a duck with white feathers and tongue depressor handle or make Dixie cup duck with construction paper, feathers and markers.

Picture 4 – Pig – Instead of FP toy you could use a puppet or use a paper plate decorated as a pig by coloring it pink and tongue depressor handle or Dixie cup pig with pink construction paper.

Picture 5 – Goose and Hare - Same as above but decorated to match the goose and hare attributes. The children might not understand what a hare is but recognize the word rabbit. Explain to the children.

Picture 6 – Mouse – Same as above but decorated with mouse attributes or can use a new mouse cat toy.
Picture 7 – Mare/Horse – Same as above but decorated with horse attributes. When the story has all the animals talking the teacher can hold several paper plate/tongue depressor animals in his/her hand or have several Dixie cup animals standing independently. The children can also be asked to help.

Picture 8 – Animals – Use all the animals made above and suggestion of picture 7.

Picture 9 – Animals – Use the bird, cow, hen and mare that you made and have them and you act animated as you try to show what the words: heard, how, when, where and squeaked all mean. Point to your watch for when and you can use a squeaky voice or a mouse with a squeaker for the mouse’s squeaky sound.

Picture 10 – Boy – You can use a boy doll or make a boy with the paper plate or cup. Photo copying the boy from the book and gluing it to the plate or cup is quick and easy.

Picture 11 – Animals – Use the cow, hen, hare and mouse as you previously did in picture nine.

Picture 12 – Boy and animals – Use the boy and animals previously made and have the boy’s head nodding yes as you do the same. When the animals speak, nod your head yes and hold your hand out, palm open while raising your shoulders and widening your eyes to help get the idea of “what” across.

Picture 13 – House – Make a house out of a box, construction paper and markers.

Picture 14 – Boy and animals walking to house – When making the house, cut out one of the windows to it flaps open. Have the boy lead the animals to the house and have a few of the animals look inside. Hold your pointer finger over your lips while saying “shhh”. 

Picture 15 – Baby – Use a small baby doll or photo copy the baby from the book and glue it to a Dixie cup.
Picture 16 – Animals looking at baby - Use the animals and baby made for the other pictures. Have the bird, cow and horse looking at the baby.

Picture 17 – Hare/Rabbit - Have the hare/rabbit join the animals from picture 16.