A Listening Walk

Introduction: As students Walk Across Texas, they see interesting people and things. If they are quiet and pay attention, they may also hear many things that they may not see. In The Listening Walk by Paul Showers, students learn that their world is full of interesting sounds.

Grade Level and Subject: First Grade Language Arts

TEKS: 1a, 1b, 1d, 1e, 1f, 3c, 5h, 5i, 8a, 11b, 12a, 13a, 13b, 13e, 14d, 14e, 14f, 14i

Materials: paper, pencil, crayons or markers

Resources: The Listening Walk by Paul Showers

Activity: Explain to students that you are going to read them a book that is fun, but it also teaches how to listen. Tell them that this is a story, but it is also an information book. Show students the cover of the book and read the title, author, and illustrator information. Ask students what an author does. Ask them what an illustrator does. Open to the first page and explain to students that this is the title page. Ask students why they think it is called the title page. Read the story to the class, pausing occasionally to allow students to repeat the sounds. For example, you may ask students, “How do Major’s toenails sound on the sidewalk?” and “What sound do Father’s shoes make?” Show students how the author describes these sounds by using letters. When you finish reading the book, take students on a short listening walk to the playground or another designated outdoor area. Instruct them that they have to be like the little girl in the book and be very quiet and listen carefully. When students return to the classroom, have them draw a picture of at least two things they heard on their listening walk. When all students have finished, have each student choose one picture to share with the class and tell what sound it makes.

Evaluation: Evaluate students for listening skills, appropriate questioning and participation, following instructions on the walk, and completion and presentation of the drawings.