

## Books for Young Learners Teacher Resource

## Book Notes

**Mama's Llamas / Las llamas de Mamá**

Author Janice Kuharski

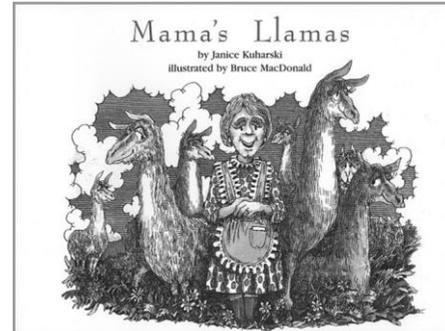
Illustrator Bruce MacDonald

16 pages ■ 159 Eng. words ■ 136 Spn. words

Fountas and Pinnell Level J

Intervention Level 18

Descubriendo la Lectura Level 12



Mama's Llamas

**SYNOPSIS**

A fantasy rhyme about a house overcrowded with llamas.

**WHAT THE BOOK OFFERS**

- Fantasy fiction in verse form
- First person; the child narrator is a silent character; developing understanding of the illustrator extending the text
- Change of tense on first and final pages
- Rhyme
- Rhythm
- Four-line stanzas except for break on pages 8 and 9
- Mainly dialogue
- Speech carrier at beginning of stanza

**POSSIBLE SKILLS EMPHASIS**

- Understanding conventions of verse, including capitalization of each line and "poetic license"
- Paraphrasing
- Vocabulary of verse, e.g., stanza, rhythm, poetic license

**INTRODUCING THE BOOK**

- The title of the book provides a key to the rhyme and rhythm and illustration of the fantasy element. A short discussion could follow about the way they can read verse to avoid a singsong approach.

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### Mama's Llamas / Las Llamas de Mamá (continued)

#### FOCUS OF INSTRUCTION

*Read the verse in your head to consider where and what expression you will use.*

*How might the author have written this verse/page if it was not in rhyme?*

- Introduce some vocabulary associated with rhyme and rhythm, e.g., rhyming couplet, poetic license

*There's a child in the illustration, but she is not in the text. What might she be thinking?*

#### FOLLOWING THE READING

- Retell *Mama's Llamas* orally and then in story form.
- Read other poems to consider the way poets "manipulate"

words to achieve rhyme and rhythm.

- Extend the rhyme by adding another verse or writing a short paragraph.

*What will happen when Mama buys another llama next year?*

- Discuss why the illustrator included the girl in the pictures and the effect of this on the reader.

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## Mama's Llamas / Las llamas de Mamá (continued)

Additional Comprehension Prompts For Oral or Written Use Before, During, and After Reading	
<b>FINISH THIS THOUGHT</b>	<i>I think llamas are . . . because . . . If I were a llama who lived with this Mama, I would not . . .</i>
<b>USE YOUR MEMORY</b>	<i>How much was Papa going to sell the llamas for? Why didn't Papa sell the llamas? How do you know? What does a llama do when it's frightened or threatened? Check the Nonfiction Note box on the inside back cover if you don't remember.</i>
<b>WHAT'S YOUR OPINION?</b>	<i>Why do you think Mama wanted so many llamas? What do you think Mama can do so she can keep buying one llama every year? Do you think llamas make good pets? Why or why not?</i>
<b>BE CREATIVE</b>	<i>When illustrators want to show how story characters feel, they draw different expressions on faces. This story is filled with facial expressions. Study all the faces on page 2. Make a list of every character on that page (including the llamas). Then write a word to describe how you think that character is feeling at that moment. Do the same thing on page 10.</i>
<b>VOCABULARY AGENT</b>	<i>Where can you find these words in the story and what do they mean? *bought *hung *favorite *sadness *gather *slightly *shrugs *nibble *resist</i>

Book Note by Margaret E. Mooney

Additional Comprehension Prompts by Dr. Connie Hebert

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