

Activities for *Winnie-the-Pooh*

Chapter II *In Which Pooh Goes Visiting and Gets Into a Tight Place*

After visiting his friend Rabbit, Pooh finds himself full of honey and condensed milk, unable to fit through Rabbit's hole and in need of his friends' help.

Pre-reading Exercise

Introduce the title of Chapter Two to your students. Write it up on the board. Then brainstorm as a class what type of tight place Pooh might "get into."

Letters to Pooh

Read up to the beginning of page 29 in this chapter, then stop and ask children to think about what they would suggest to Pooh to help him get out of the hole. Tell them that they will be writing a letter to Pooh offering their suggestions. If letter writing is new to your class, you may want to introduce letter form to them.

Our Pooh Friends

In this chapter, we are introduced to our friend Rabbit. You may want to begin keeping lists of describing words for each of our new Pooh friends. Each character has his or her own distinct personality and by using colorful vocabulary to describe each, we open our students to many new and exciting words for their own use. As you create your lists, you may want to consider doing one or all of the following: have children enter each of the adjectives in their own personal dictionaries, create a small typed list that you can copy and adhere to their desks for personal reference, post large copies of the list where all students can see them. If you are especially creative, you may want to draw each of the characters and write the adjectives in their bellies. Begin your list with Rabbit and have students add to it at anytime. If your students generate mundane words like 'nice' and 'good,' now is a perfect time to jump to the following activity.

Trashing the Boring Words

When students are asked to describe someone, they often resort to simple words like 'nice' or 'fun.' Even very young children can be introduced to a thesaurus as a viable resource and they fall in love with using it! Begin by letting the class know that they are amazing writers and that you love the great writing they are doing. Talk about how since they are growing as writers, you are going to introduce them to a very big kid tool to use as a resource. Introduce a children's thesaurus. Show them how to find a word in the thesaurus. Choose a boring word and write it on chart paper in a dark color. Then surround it in brilliantly colored words that are more interesting synonyms. Don't be discouraged if your new writers need lots of help at the beginning. Find a few children who can more easily find words in the thesaurus and honor them by directing more needy children towards them.