



*Share a book everyday to create a reader for a lifetime!*



**Title: The Relatives Came**

**Author:** Cynthia Rylant **Illustrator:** Stephen Gammell

**Book Summary:** The relatives are coming! They pack their truck and leave so early that it is still dark outside. There's going to be a lot of hugging and laughing and eating!

**Before Reading,** use the following conversation starters to engage your child's interest in the book.

**To create interest in the book,** ask your child to look at the cover picture and notice the characters' faces. How do you think they feel about the trip? What do you like about going on trips?

**To develop prediction skills,** ask your child what s/he thinks will happen in the story? Where are they going? What will they do when they get where they are going?

**During Reading,** use the following ideas to keep your child actively engaged in the book sharing.

**To foster verbal skills,** pause before you read a page. Encourage him/her to "read" aloud to you by describing the illustrations. Children use the pictures to help create meanings for the story.

**To develop personal connections,** discuss with your child similarities his/her family has with the family in the story. What does your family do together? Ask your child if s/he would like to try tending a garden or fixing broken toys with a relative or friends.

**After Reading,** use the following activities to extend your book sharing experience.

**To teach your child about the seasons,** ask your child to draw a picture of himself/herself outside in the weather for a summer day. What clothes would s/he need? What would s/he like to do or play?

Encourage your child to create a picture for fall, winter, and spring.

**To develop awareness of family traditions,** share stories with your child about your family. Help your child make a book of family memories with stories and pictures of holidays and gatherings.

Create a family keepsake for years to come!

**To promote creativity,** encourage your child to create a family/friend portrait. Who would s/he include in the picture? Where would they all be-at the dinner table, a friend's back yard, a family member's home?

What would they be doing-smiling or being silly?

Onslow County Partnership for Children



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