

DEAR DEER

K-3

**Written and Illustrated by Gene Barretta
Introduced by Gene Barretta**

Published by Henry Holt and Company

Story Summary

Aunt Ant has just moved to the zoo. She speaks in homophones as she describes the quirky animal behavior she sees. Among the animals she sees are a moose, a whale, a deer, a toad and a ewe. This picture book, with its vivid illustrations, introduces children to homophones and an interesting cast of characters as well.

Objectives

1. To develop an understanding of homophones.
2. To develop an understanding of the difference between homophones and homonyms.
3. To develop and expand one's personal vocabulary of homophones.
4. To develop sentence-writing skills using homophones.

Before viewing the video

Tell the children that they will be meeting the author, Gene Barretta, in this video. He will be explaining exactly what homophones are to us. Play close attention to his name! This story is about Aunt Ant (write the name on the board) who now lives at the zoo. The words "Aunt Ant" are homophones. Homophones are words that sound the same but are spelled differently and have different meanings. What are the different meanings for "aunt" and "ant?" Ask the children if they can think of any homophones. Make a list of the sets of words the children volunteer and decide with the class if they are true homophones. Tell them to be on the alert for the homophones they will hear and see in this video.

Questions to ask after viewing the video

1. Aunt Ant meets a moose. Can you think of a homophone for moose?
2. Aunt Ant sees a ewe. Can you think of a homophone for ewe?
3. Aunt Ant sees a horse. Can you think of a homophone for horse?
4. The bat hangs from his feet. Can you think of a homophone for feet?
5. The monkey hangs from his tale. Can you think of a homophone for tail?
6. Aunt Ant sees a doe. Can you think of a homophone for doe?
7. Aunt Ant shares a seesaw with a toad. Can you think of a homophone for toad?
8. Aunt Ant is looking at a great big whale. Can you think of a homophone for whale?
9. Aunt Ant is looking at a huge bear. Can you think of a homophone for bear?
10. Aunt Ant sees a bee fly away. Can you think of a homophone for bee?
11. Aunt ant sees two gnus. Can you think of a homophone for gnu?
12. The title of this book is Dear Deer. What is the meaning of those homophones?
13. There were many homophones you heard in the video that were not names of animals. How many of them can you remember?

Activities

1. Find the homophones. Write the sentences from Dear Deer that contain homophones. Have the children underline or circle the homophones.
2. What is a homonym? Homonyms are words that sound the same and are spelled the same but have different meanings, such as *bowl* (a round dish) and *bowl* (the sport.) Create a list of homonyms. On a bulletin board display, have a column of homophones and another column of homonyms that the children can develop.
3. Using the sentences in Dear Deer as examples, have the children create their own sentences containing homonyms.
4. Create a class book of illustrations of original homophone sentences developed by the children.