How Rocket Learned to Read

You can pick and choose and use at your own pace. Please feel free to add any activities. We would like to have at least 2-3 student artwork or samples for display in the showcase.

Author and Illustrator: Tad Hills

- **Summary:** Rocket, a fun-loving puppy, meets a very brilliant bird. The little yellow bird teaches Rocket the alphabet. Throughout the fall, Rocket learns his ABC, listens to stories and starts writing letters. Rocket discovers the joy of spelling out words and reading stories. But winter comes and interrupts his lessons…what will he do with his new knowledge?

**Discussion Questions or Question of the Day:**

- **Pre-reading:** Who do you think Rocket is? Who do you think will teach Rocket to read? Who taught you how to read?
- **While reading:** How does Rocket feel about school at the beginning of the book? How does Rocket discover he enjoys reading? Can you try to spell the words Rocket spells?
- **Post-reading:** What did Rocket discover during the book? What did Rocket learn before he learned how to read? How do you think Rocket got his name?
Vocabulary Words:

You can also choose other words to work with.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>read</th>
<th>captivated</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>marvel</td>
<td>bothered</td>
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<tr>
<td>disturbed</td>
<td>confused</td>
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<tr>
<td>delicious</td>
<td>hollored</td>
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Activities to use with this book:

Reading/Oral Language:

- Teacher or students read the story aloud. Have students talk about their experience in learning how to read.
• Discuss what it would be like if we no one knew how to read. Let the children guide the conversation.

Writing:
• Have students write their own story in which Rocket learns to do something else.
• Have students write about the characteristics of the different seasons that Rocket experienced.
• Have students write a summary of the story.
• Have students write a letter to Rocket to express how proud you are of him learning to read.

Science:
• Have students tell you what they discovered birds do during the winter.
• Talk about the four seasons Rocket experienced.
Social Studies:

- Compare the English alphabet to alphabets of other languages
- Discuss what makes a good teacher
- Make a chart of all of the things that a teacher does during the day

Visual/Spatial/ Art

- Mud or Snow Drawing: Rocket spelled words like DIG, WIND, COLD and MUD. Draw an illustration of the words that Rocket spelled. Have the students spell the words with paint on construction paper after they have drawn their pictures.

- Have students draw a picture of their favorite part of the book and write a sentence about it.
The kids can create something similar on construction paper.

**Intrapersonal**

- How did Rocket first respond to the bird? How did he change over time? Make a plan for several things that the bird should teach Rocket in his second year of "school".
- Create a thank you that Rocket could give to his teacher. Make sure that there is a message in the thank you that proves that Rocket knows how to read and write.
Naturalist

- There are several points of nature to be investigated in this book. Select a natural element and describe that element in a poem. Examples: a haiku about Spring or leaves falling from trees.

(flowers cut-outs can be used)

- Dogs may not learn to read, but people believe that they communicate. Research ways that dogs communicate with people and ways that they help people that may not be able to see or read on their own.