



The Unicorn Rescue Society: The Creature of the Pines

by Adam Gidwitz

Reading with your child is an excellent way to expose your child to words, topics, and ideas that are more complex than what they would see in books they can read on their own. Conversations will help increase your child’s oral language skills and build their vocabulary. C.A.R. is a conversation starter that you can use with your child any time.

Below is an example of how to use C.A.R. with the book, *The Unicorn Rescue Society: The Creature of the Pines*.



C.A.R.	Example
<p>C Comment and Wait (count to 5) *Make a comment about what you see on the page.</p>	<p><i>Adult:</i> It looks like they found the Jersey Devil!</p> <p><i>Child:</i> I am sure they are excited to see him!</p>
<p>A Ask questions and Wait (count to 5) *Ask questions that do not have a “yes/ no” or one-word answer to them.</p>	<p><i>Adult:</i> I wonder what Uchenna, Elliot, and Professor Fauna are thinking when they see the Jersey Devil?</p> <p><i>Child:</i> They are probably trying to figure out a plan about how to catch him.</p>
<p>R Respond by adding a little more to the child’s response.</p>	<p><i>Adult:</i> I’m sure they’re nervous about trying to go into the building to get him.</p>



Activities	Parent Tips
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Discuss with your child the characteristics of the Jersey Devil. Make your own Mythical Creatures Encyclopedia with names, facts, and illustrations for each creature. Use construction paper, blank white paper, or any notebook. Don't forget to add the Jersey Devil! » Engage in a conversation with your child about the part of the story when Dr. Thomas says, "The Jersey Devil is the most American creature that ever lived. The bald eagle shouldn't be on the dollar bill. No, no, no. The Jersey Devil should be." Ask, "If you could pick a creature, real or mythical, for the dollar bill, what would you pick and why?" Design your own dollar bill using pens, markers, or crayons. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » When reading a chapter book aloud with your child, do a quick review of the characters and plot line each time you pick up the book to begin reading. A brief review goes a long way to helping them remember what the story is about so far. » When reading to your child, model reading the story how you would want your child to read it. Speak clearly, well-paced, and with appropriate expression. » Encourage your child to make predictions before reading a book. Before you begin reading, look at the cover and ask your child, "What do you think this book is going to be about?" While you are reading, ask, "What do you predict is going to happen next?" After the story, ask your child, "Was your prediction correct? Why or why not?"
More Activities	Related Books/Resources
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Ask your child to name his/her favorite thing about the Jersey Devil. Create a fact sheet about the creature that includes notable features, habitat, likes, and dislikes. » Talk with your child about how the story ended in Professor Fauna's office. Ask your child to write about or discuss a new ending. How could you change the ending? What would you do differently than the author? » Ask your child where Elliot, Uchenna, and Professor Fauna saw the Jersey Devil go. Discuss chapters 26-28 and encourage your child to create a map of the greenhouse. What path did they take to escape? How did Elliot get away from the butler? Use paper and writing materials to create your own map. 	<p><i>The Unicorn Rescue Society: The Basque Dragon</i> by Adam Gidwitz</p> <p><i>The Unicorn Rescue Society: Sasquatch and the Muckleshoot</i> by Adam Gidwitz</p> <p><i>The Unicorn Rescue Society: The Chupacabras of the Rio Grande</i> by Adam Gidwitz</p> <p><i>Federico and the Wolf</i> by Rebecca Gomez</p> <p><i>Willa the Wisp</i> by Jonathan Auxier</p>

