

The Mouse and the Thunderstorm

- unknown

This Story:

The Mouse and the Thunderstorm is an excellent story for helping children overcome a fear of thunder storms. It can also be used as a weather unit.

Basic Concepts:

1. Weather: Brainstorm a list of why we need rain and water and compile a list of weather words.

2. Vocabulary: Read the story in advance to identify the vocabulary that may be unfamiliar to your students. Some new words may be: **tremble**, **shiver**, **waddling**, and **scurried**.

Pantomime/Act-it-Out Story Directions:

1. Pantomime: Read the **bold-italized** action words slowly. This will help the children to listen and know when and what to pantomime. Have **all** the children pantomime the character of the little scared mouse.

2. Happy Chant: Teach the children the underlined sentences and have them repeat the sentences at the appropriate time during the story.

Flannel Board/Puppet Story Directions:

1. Visual Presentation: Follow the directions on page 5 to turn *The Mouse and the Thunderstorm* patterns (page 20) into visual props. Make a pond from blue paper and a green bush for the mouse to hide behind.

2. Retell: Let the children manipulate the flannel board pieces or the puppets as you read the story.

The Mouse and the Thunderstorm

Once upon a time, there was a little mouse (*fig. 1*) who was afraid of thunderstorms. When she **heard** thunder in the sky, she would **tremble** and **shake**. When she **saw** lightning in the sky, she would **shake** and **shiver**. The other mice would tease her by yelling, "Thunder! Thunder! Thunder! Run and hide!" And the poor little mouse would always **run** and **hide**.

One sunny day, the little mouse went out for a long **walk**. She **walked** and **walked** and **walked**, when suddenly she realized that she was getting very thirsty. Just then some dark clouds (*fig. 2*) began to roll in, the thunder sounded, and it began to rain. The thunderstorm **frightened** the little mouse and she began to **cry**. She **quickly ran** to find somewhere safe to **hide**.

From her hiding spot she **saw** a frog (*fig. 3*). He was **hopping** and **dancing**. He loved the thunderstorm! The frog cheered, "**I am so happy. There will be water in the pond!**"

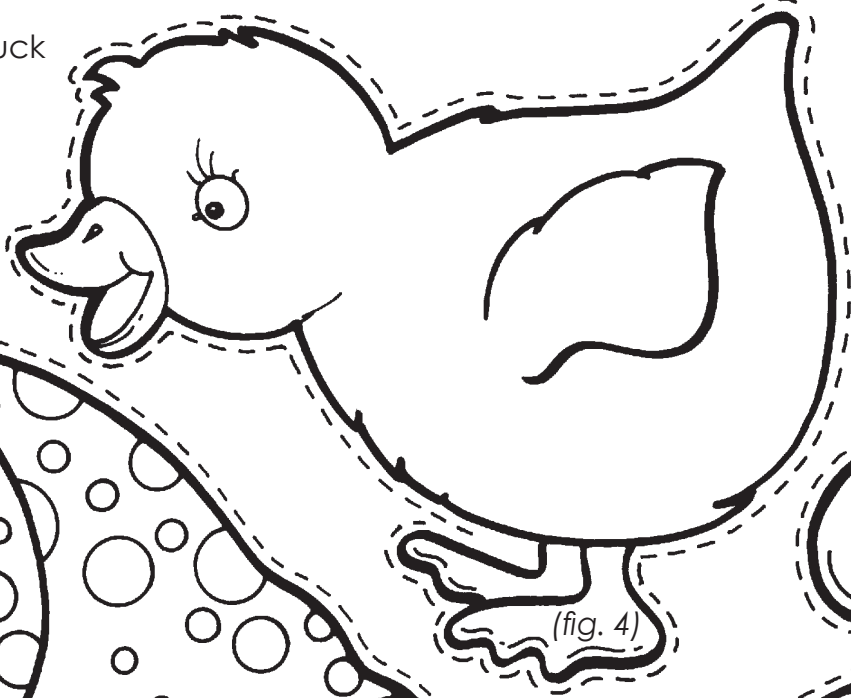
Then the little mouse **saw** a duck (*fig. 4*). The duck was **quacking** and **waddling**. She loved the thunderstorm! The duck cheered, "**I am so happy. There will be water in the pond!**"

The little mouse said to herself, "They like thunderstorms! Maybe thunderstorms are good. From now on I will not be scared of thunderstorms anymore!" Then, she remembered how thirsty she was. The little mouse **scurried** down to the pond (*add paper pond*) and said, "**I am so happy. There will be water in the pond!**" And then she had a big drink of water!

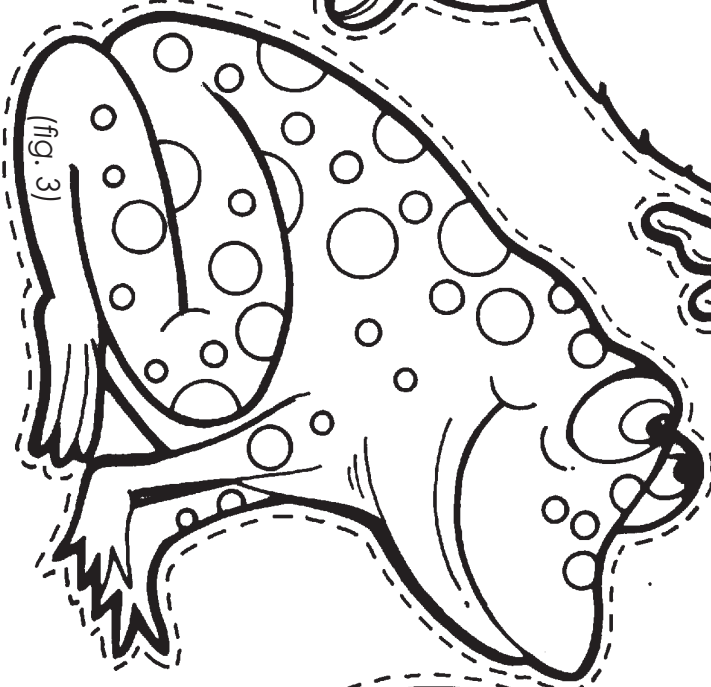
THE END

The Mouse and the Thunderstorm Patterns

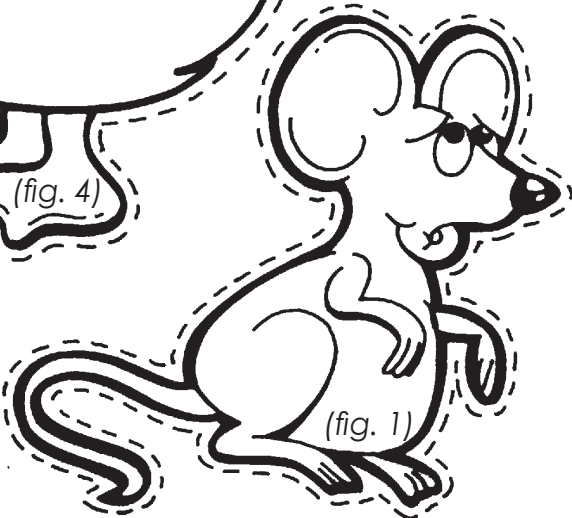
duck



frog



mouse



gray thunder cloud

