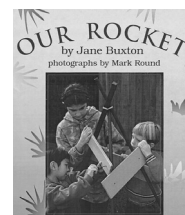


# Our Rocket

by Jane Buxton

photographs by Mark Round



## Book Summary

Reality meets fantasy as a group of children construct and “fly” a backyard rocket.

## Features of the Book

- Clear type, consistently placed.
- Predictable sentence structure as a support.
- One word change per page.
- The range of verbs – “fix”, “screw”, “staple”, “tape”, “glue”, “tie”, and “fly”.
- The rhymes – “tie”, “fly” and “glue”, “screw”.
- The poetic structure.
- The visual effects photomontage on page 8.
- The high-frequency words – “We” and “it”.

## Purpose

*Our Rocket* can be used in a guided reading setting to introduce the following skills and strategies:

- recognising the relationship between letters and their sounds;
- responding to simple questions about the story’s content;
- sharing ideas about the story with others in the group;
- writing a simple set of instructions.

## Introducing the text

Talk with the group about models they have made, for example, a car or robot.

- *What did you use to make it?*
- *What did you use to hold it together?*
- *Did you have to use tools?*

Encourage the group to talk about the materials and processes they used to make their model.

Look at the cover and discuss the photograph.

- *Can you use the photograph to find out the name of this book?*
- *Can you tell what the children are making?*

Read the title of the book and the names of the author and photographer to the group.

## Reading the text

- Recognising the relationship between letters and their sounds.
- Responding to simple questions about the story’s content.
- Sharing ideas about the story with others in the group.

Look at the title page.

- *What are these children doing?*
- *Which part of the rocket are they making?*

Pages 2 to 7 – Look at each photograph and talk about the action.

- *What are the children doing?*
- *What tools are they using?*
- *What are they using to make the rocket?*  
(wood, paper, tape, string)

Page 8

- *What is happening here?*
- *Do you think this really happened?*
- *How would they make a photograph like this?*

The children now read the book independently.

## Revisiting the text

You could discuss the tools that could be used to make a rocket. Mime the action of using each tool.

- *Could they have joined the pieces together in any other way?*
- *Which word changes on each page?* (the second word in each sentence)

## Following Up

- Writing a simple set of instructions.
- ✎ The children could use a large cardboard box to construct a model, then write a simple set of instructions about what they did.
- Complete the blackline master opposite.