



# The Mitten

*Based on a retelling by Jan Brett*

The activities and discussion prompts included in this lesson are designed to support comprehension, vocabulary development, critical thinking, and meaningful discussion before, during, and after reading. These resources are intended to provide instructional options—not a checklist to complete.

Select the activities that best align with your instructional goals, students' needs, and available instructional time. You are not expected to use every resource in a single lesson. Instead, choose the components that will have the greatest impact on student learning and adapt them as needed to create an engaging and purposeful reading experience.



# Vocabulary

## Vocabulary Lesson (Teacher-Led Lesson)

### Teach in Three Moves

1. Say the word, clap its parts, and have students repeat it.
2. Give the meaning and gesture; students act it out.
3. Connect it to the story and ask students to complete an oral frame.

| Word     | Student-Friendly Meaning                                       | Quick Gesture / Example                                |
|----------|----------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|
| mitten   | A warm covering for the hand with one space for the thumb.     | Hold up one thumb and keep the other fingers together. |
| snug     | Warm, comfortable, and fitting closely.                        | Wrap your arms around yourself.                        |
| squeeze  | To press into a small space or press tightly.                  | Move hands close together.                             |
| crowded  | Filled with too many people, animals, or things for the space. | Stand shoulder-to-shoulder.                            |
| stretch  | To become longer, wider, or bigger when pulled.                | Move hands slowly apart.                               |
| burst    | To open or move outward suddenly.                              | Open closed hands quickly.                             |
| sequence | The order in which events happen.                              | Show 1, 2, 3 with fingers.                             |
| predict  | To use clues to make a smart guess about what may happen.      | Point to eyes, then tap your head.                     |

### Oral frames:

- The mitten felt \_\_\_\_\_ because \_\_\_\_\_.
- The animals had to \_\_\_\_\_ so they could \_\_\_\_\_.
- I predict \_\_\_\_\_ because \_\_\_\_\_.

## Meaning Match (DOK 1-2)

Match, then explain one choice.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Directions:** Write the letter of the best meaning beside each word. Then choose one word and explain how it connects to the story.

| Word        | Letter |
|-------------|--------|
| 1. mitten   | _____  |
| 2. snug     | _____  |
| 3. squeeze  | _____  |
| 4. crowded  | _____  |
| 5. stretch  | _____  |
| 6. burst    | _____  |
| 7. sequence | _____  |
| 8. predict  | _____  |

### Meanings

- A. to use clues to make a smart guess
- B. the order in which events happen
- C. warm and fitting closely
- D. a warm hand covering with a separate thumb
- E. filled with too many animals or things
- F. to press into a small space
- G. to become longer or wider when pulled
- H. to open or move outward suddenly

**My word:** \_\_\_\_\_

**This word connects to the story because** \_\_\_\_\_



## Sort & Defend (DOK 2-3)

Sort by meaning, then justify a placement.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Directions:** Place each word in the category where it fits best. Some words could fit more than one category; choose one and be ready to defend it.

**Word bank:** mitten • snug • squeeze • crowded • stretch • burst • sequence • predict

| Things / Descriptions | Actions / Changes | Thinking / Story Words |
|-----------------------|-------------------|------------------------|
|                       |                   |                        |
|                       |                   |                        |
|                       |                   |                        |
|                       |                   |                        |

### Defend One Placement

I placed \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_ because ...

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A classmate might place it somewhere else because

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## Word Deep Dive (DOK 2-3)

**Build a flexible understanding of one important word.**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Directions:** Choose one word: snug, squeeze, crowded, stretch, burst, sequence, or predict.

**My word:** \_\_\_\_\_

| What I Think It Means | A Picture or Symbol |
|-----------------------|---------------------|
|                       |                     |
| Example               | Non-Example         |
|                       |                     |

Use the word in a sentence about The Mitten:

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Why is this word important to understanding the story?

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