

Happy horse

Things to collect and words to display

hand	happy	hat	he
hello	he	hi	him
hippopotamus	horse		

Rhymes and jingles, songs and books

Frank Asch, *Happy Birthday, Moon*, Simon and Schuster Books, 1982, New York

Eric Carle, *A House for Hermit Crab*, Aladdin, 2002
Hot Cross Buns

Humpty Dumpty Sat on a Wall

Jennie/Johnnie Works with One Hammer

Reading the big book

Looks like

Take students outside. Have students work in pairs and ask them to use their bodies to make the shape of a lower case **h**. Some students might make the shape as a flat shape on the ground and some might make a 3D shape by standing up. Gradually increase the number of students in a group and have students use problem-solving techniques to make the shape again, but using a larger number of bodies. Repeat for capital **H**.

In the alphabet

Talk to students about the position of **h** in the alphabet. Tell students that **h** is the eighth letter of the alphabet. Have students say the alphabet and when they get to **h**, put their hand up. Show students **Worksheet 1** and ask them to cut out each of the boxes containing a letter of the alphabet. Students can jumble these up and then place them in correct alphabetical order.

Wonderful words

Talk to students about the word 'hippo'. Ask students if they know the longer word for hippo. Explain to students that hippo is a short way of saying hippopotamus. Make comparisons to shortened names such as Nick for Nicholas and Liz for Elizabeth.

Making noises

Divide the class into two groups. Ask one group to be the Happy horses and the other group to be the Hungry hippos. Read the text and, as you do, ask students to say the lines that the animals say. Praise students who respond with enthusiasm. Allow groups to swap characters so everyone gets a turn at being a Happy horse. Show students **Worksheet 2**. Ask them to write what Happy horse says on page 10 in the speech bubble. Remember to make sure students know how to correctly form a lower case **h**.

Letting them loose with the little books

The syllable clap

Have students think about all of the spoken words in the text. Remind students that the speech marks, or quotation marks, help readers to understand when characters are speaking. Help students 'clap' each of the lines of text that are spoken. Next, tell students that you are going to clap one of these lines again and that they need to guess which line has been clapped. Ask students to participate by clapping a line for their friends.

Chop and change

Say to students, 'If Happy horse says hi, and jappy jorse says ji, what would bappy borse say?' Help students to recognise that bappy borse would say 'bi'. Have students experiment with other sounds. When students understand, say 'If Happy horse says hee hee hee ho ho ho ha ha ha', what would Mappy morse say?' Mappy morse would say 'Mee mee mee mo mo mo ma ma ma'. Continue substituting other sounds.

Craft ideas

Provide students with paper, paints and brushes and help them make **handprints**. Make sure there is clean, soapy water nearby for students to wash hands in. When handprints are dry, have students write the letter **h** in the palm of their print. Display these in the classroom. Use handprints as a border for other displayed work in the classroom.