

Teaching notes

Nine nuts

Things to collect and words to display

nail	name	nest	
newspaper	night	nine	
nose	number	nurse	nuts

Rhymes and jingles, songs and books

Joy Cowley, *Nicketty-Nacketty, Noo-Noo-Noo*, Scholastic, 1996

PD Eastman, *The Best Nest*, Random House, 1964, New York

Reading the big book

Looks like

If there are no nut allergies in the class, tip a bag of nuts onto a table and have students use these to make the shape of a capital and lower case **n**. Use nails if nuts are not suitable. Show students how the shape of a lower case **n** can be found within the shape of h and m.

Starts with

Have students sit in a circle. Give one student a nut, or something else that starts with /n/. Ask students to pass the nut around the circle. As each student gets the nut, they need to say a word that starts with /n/. These words could be recorded on a chart and displayed.

The syllable clap

Have students clap the syllables as they repeat each line of text. Then show students **Worksheet 1**. Explain to them that you are going to reread each line of text. They should listen carefully and count the number of syllables. Students can then circle the same number of nuts as there are syllables. There is one line of nuts for each line of text in the book. Later, students can add faces to the nuts they have circled.

Letting them loose with the little books

Wonderful words

Talk about the words that describe the nuts on some of the pages. Explain to students that these describing words are also called adjectives. Examples include: nine, nice, nutty, naughty, nasty. Discuss how each of these words starts with /n/. Show students **Worksheet 2**. Explain to them they need to complete each sentence using a word that starts with /n/. It can be one used in the book or it can be another that they have thought of themselves. Students can draw pictures to match their nuts.

Chop and change

Choose a word from the text and ask students to remove one sound and replace it with another. For example, say, "I'm thinking of the word nine. Replace the first sound in nine with /p/. What is the new word? That's right, its pine." Repeat this with the following examples: replace /n/ in nice with /r/; replace /n/ in nuts with /c/; replace /n/ in nutty with /p/; replace /n/ in noses with /h/.

Handle with care

Remind students of the need to handle books with care. Praise students who turn the pages carefully and who return books to storage in a sensible manner.

Craft ideas

Students can make nine nuts in a nest using newspaper. Begin by allowing students to rip strips of newspaper and paste these onto the bottom of a sheet of paper in the shape of a nest. Next, have students scrunch up a page of newspaper into a tight ball. This can be used to dip in paint and then print nine nuts. When the paint has dried, students can add facial details to their nuts using coloured markers.

