



BOOK TITLE: **Little Devils**
AUTHOR: Robert J. Blake



SUMMARY OF BOOK: Three Tasmanian devil pups (Winnie, Big Stanley, and Burnie) venture out of their den when their mother fails to return home. In the world outside, they encounter difficulties, learn lessons, and must work collaboratively to bring their family back together.

***BEFORE READING** (Ask questions and use what the child already knows to add to the discussion, assisting the child in understanding and enjoying the book). Ask:

1. Talk about what a Tasmanian devil is. (The last pages of the book include an Author's Note.)
2. Talk about what young animals in the wild need for survival.
3. What other animals are found in Australia? Which one is your favorite?
4. Take a picture walk through the book and ask what the story might be about.

DURING READING: As you read the book talk with the child about the story and the illustrations. Ask questions such as:

1. Pause occasionally and ask "How might the pups be feeling now?"
2. Why did the pups leave the den? Why couldn't they wait for their Mum to return?
3. Pause occasionally before turning the page and ask "What will the pups do next?"
4. "What kind of Alaskan animals do the Tasmanian devils remind you of?"

AFTER READING (activity to extend book experience):

1. Talk about families, about why it feels good when families do things together. How is a "happy Tasmanian devil family" like yours?
2. Help your child recreate the story *in Alaska*, with the adventures adapted to the child's environment.
3. Tasmanian devils are supposed to act "gnarly and rough." What does that mean, and why is it important?
4. Read the Author's Note and discuss what it means for the species to be "in trouble."

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* This activity created by students at The University of Alaska Anchorage.
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