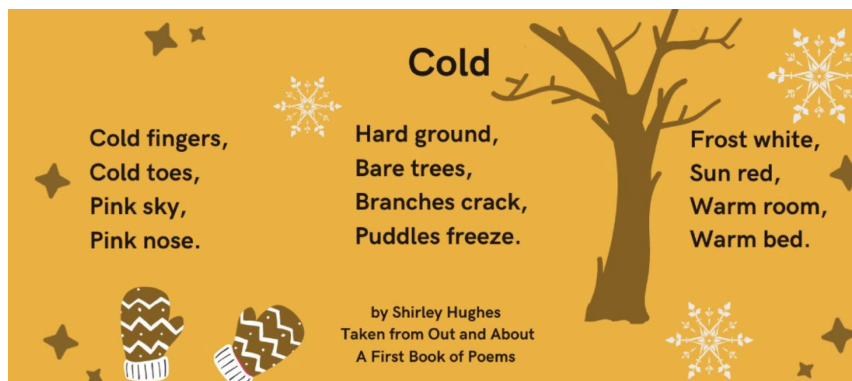


Title: <i>A Mischief of Mice</i>	Author: Christie Matheson
Genre: narrative	Warm Up Poem: <i>Cold</i> Shirley Hughes

On a blustery fall day, a mystery begins when the mice go missing. This rhyming whodunit will provide fun with collective nouns.

Warm Up Poem: *Cold* by Shirley Hughes

<https://anotherworldcostumes.com/2022/11/29/autumn-and-winter-poems-for-children/>



Vocabulary:

Word	Page	Student-Friendly Definition
eerie	9	mysterious and frightening
lurk	15	to act in a sneaky way
ominous	18	to show or made to feel future threats or unpleasantness
tentative	27	unsure or hesitant
despair	31	to be completely without hope

Vocabulary: Collective Nouns

A *collective noun* is a word referring to a collection of things taken as a whole. Students may be familiar with collective nouns such as a *swarm of bees* or a *flock of birds*. They may know a *mob* is a group of angry people and a *staff* is a group of people who work in the same place. However, this book will introduce them to unfamiliar collective nouns for animals... some that most adults will never have heard! It may be fun to think about - or even research - the origin of these words.

Pages 38 - 40 list the collective nouns used and give some interesting facts about each animal.

Reading:

Page #	Accountable Talk	JOYcabulary
Before Reading	<i>Mischief</i>. What do you already know about this word? How could it relate to mice? To you? But did you know a <i>mischief of mice</i> means a group of mice? Me either! There are going to be a LOT of words in this book that mean a group of a particular animal, just like when we talk about a <i>herd</i> of cows. These special nouns are called <i>collective nouns</i> because they stand for a collection, or group, of those animals. Now let's look at the back cover. Ooooh! A mystery!	
1 - 7	Hmm...What do you think the squirrels fear could happen to them next?	
P. 8 - 17	The squirrels seem very suspicious of the other animals. How do their questions raise the tension in the story? What about the author's word choice?	eerie lurk
P. 18 - 25	These squirrels are certainly coming up with a lot of theories about what happened to those mice. What do YOU think happened to them? Are there any clues that the squirrels are missing?	ominous
P. 26 - 33	Ah! The tracks!! Did you notice that long before the bear?	tentative despair
P. 34 - 37	Besides the tracks, was there anything else that could help solve this mystery? Could you use what you know about mice behavior in the cold to help?	
After Reading	How are the squirrels in <i>A Mischief of Mice</i> similar to the squirrels in <i>Those Darn Squirrels Fly South</i> ? Different?	

Extensions:

Writing:

- Ellipsis to create tension
- Word choice to create tension
- Use of commas
- Story arc

Vocabulary:

Another book to read: *World of Language: A Cache of Jewels and Other Collective Nouns* - Ruth Heller

In the same series: *Mine, All Mine: A Book About Pronouns*

Kites Sail High: A Book About Verbs

Many Luscious Lollipops: A Book About Adjectives

Merry-Go-Round: A Book About Nouns

Up, Up, and Away: A Book About Adverbs