



## **Jackalope**

By Janet Stevens and Susan Stevens Crummel  
(Lesson submitted by Criss Smith, LMS @ Lee Elementary)

This lesson can be adapted for other grades.

**Second Grade Lesson OK Pass: Reading/Literature standards 3.2, 5.1a, 5.2a, 5.4a, 6.1a, 6.3a, and 7.1c**

### **Getting started:**

1. Before reading this story, check students' prior knowledge about these things:
  - Which fairy tale character spoke to her mirror on the wall, and what did she ask it?
  - What does a fairy godmother do?
  - What is a family tree?
  - What is the role of a narrator in a story?  
The narrator for JACKALOPE is an armadillo
  - What is a jackalope? (It is a fictitious animal that supposedly lives in the Southwest. It has horns like an antelope.)
2. Introduce **puns** as a literary device. Have the sentence strips listed below ready to pass out to volunteers, and have those volunteers sit near a pocket chart while you read the story. When volunteers hear their sentence strip read in the story, they display the sentence strip in the chart or hold it for others to see so the class can enjoy the pun. Pause your reading of the story so students have time to get the joke.

### Sentence Strips:

- Having a bad **hare** day?
- Now **lettuce** see, you wished for fangs, claws, a stinger, beak, and horns.
- I see you don't **carrot** all about me.
- **Beets** me!
- Oh, Jack, I knew you'd **turnip**!
- You could decorate them with **hornaments**.
- I'd be happier even with your **corny** vegetable talk.

3. The story has two endings, but don't let your class in on the joke just yet.... Read the first ending and watch the reaction of the class. After pausing for a bit, read the second ending. Then have a discussion. A few suggested questions:
  - o Why do you think you were surprised by the first ending of the story?
  - o Did you have any other feeling besides surprise?
  - o Why do you think the authors wrote two endings to the story?
4. Read the author's note about the animals in the story. After reading the interesting facts about jackrabbits, antelopes, pronghorns, and horned toads, ask the students to find out more about one of these animals. Use this as an opportunity to work with your library media specialist who can help you introduce the reference section of the library and online data bases.
5. This story lends itself to writing and art activities. Some groups might want to write a Reader's Theater. Others might want to make illustrations demonstrating the difference between pronghorns and antelopes. Some might want to create a recipe using all of the vegetables listed in the story. Others might want to have some fun writing puns. Some might want to write to the authors to ask questions or show their appreciation for a good story. Guide them to Janet Stevens's web site.

<http://www.janetstevens.com/>

**Interesting facts about Janet Stevens:** The armadillo appears often in her stories. Janet has been making Christmas cards for her parents for 20 years and each one has 2 armadillos on it. Her parents have iron cutouts of two armadillos dancing on the front gate of their home near Hunt, Texas. Ms. Stevens also likes to include aluminum yard chairs in her drawings. Be on the lookout for armadillos and yard chairs! For more information shared during an interview with the author, go to

[http://www.harcourtbooks.com/authorinterviews/bookinterview\\_stevens.asp](http://www.harcourtbooks.com/authorinterviews/bookinterview_stevens.asp)

[Jackalope Encyclopedia Research](#) (answers found in *World Book Encyclopedia*)