



# Peter's Chair

Words and Pictures by Ezra Jack Keats

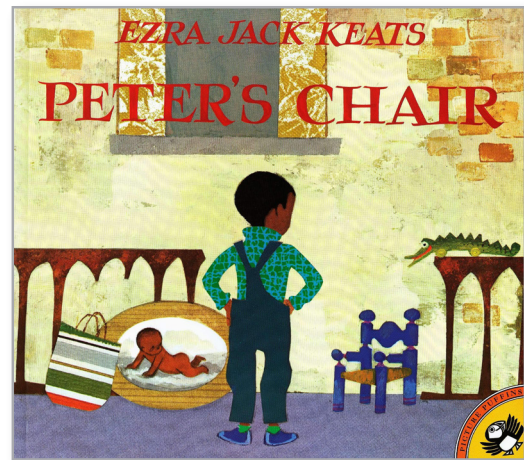
Read-Aloud Activity by Pat Dragan

## Before We Read: Introduce the Book

- Suggested scripted text for readers is indicated in italics with the lesson. Feel free to adapt as you wish.
- The **Now We Read** and **After We Read** sections include suggested instructions in brackets for readers.

- *Ezra Jack Keats has won many important prizes for his books and artwork. The art in this book is different from the art in many picture books. It is made from pieces of cut paper pasted or glued to make pictures. A camera takes pictures of it all.*
- *In this story, Peter is a big brother. His parents are changing some of Peter's things so his baby sister can use them. His cradle is now pink. His blue highchair is pink, too. And now his Dad will paint his little blue chair pink. How do you think Peter will feel about this? Why?*
- *Do any of you remember when a little sister or brother was born? What do you remember the most clearly?*
- *When you listen to the story, think about what Peter is thinking about. What is bothering him? What are some things he could do to solve his problem?*

[Ask children to pay attention to the cut paper art in the book. Do they like this kind of art? Would they like to try it?]



## Now We Read: Read the Book

Stop after a few pages and ask children how Peter feels. Ask children what Peter could do that might help him think and feel differently.

## After We Read: Talk about the Book

- *What was Peter's problem? What did he do about it?*
- *How did it make Peter feel when he asked his dad if he could help paint his small chair pink, for his baby sister? Would you call this a kind thing to do?*

➔ Sometimes problems in books are too close to home for children to want to say much about them. Some children may or may not be comfortable talking about this book.

- *Give children time for comments about the story. They may wish to draw a picture showing their own family or siblings.*

### Optional Activities:

- Invite children to cut and glue to make an "Ezra Jack Keats" style picture.
- Keep large and small pieces of paper, and magazine pictures in a pile. Turn the pile sideways and put it in a box that fits. This way papers are standing upright and will be easy for a child to pick through and choose. Or: Lift the sideways pile of paper out of the box and spread it out on the rug.
- Distribute scissors and paper, white or colored, for the background. Children can take turns picking papers to cut and glue. After they put their various cut paper shapes on the background, they can arrange the pieces into a design they like.
- Now, instead of undoing their pictures and gluing the pieces one at a time, they can dab a little glue under each shape to keep it in place and press down. This way they make their whole or mostly whole picture, and then glue it. They aren't creating it twice. (NOTE: Some children will prefer to undo their created picture and glue one piece at a time.)
- Display children's artwork on a bulletin board for all to enjoy.