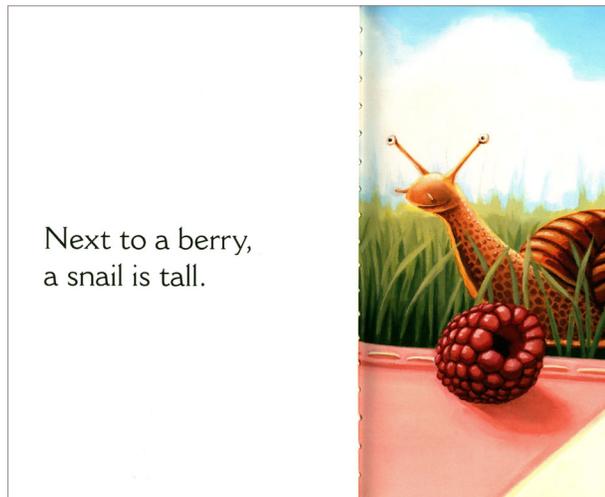


Next to an Ant by Mara Rockliff and Pascale Constantin

AGE LEVEL 2–4 YEARS

About the Story

This story compares objects of different heights. For example, a berry is taller than an ant and a snail is taller than a berry. Each new object is taller than the one before it, until the tallest one of all appears on the last page.



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Words to Learn

SIZE WORDS

tall, taller, tallest, short, shorter

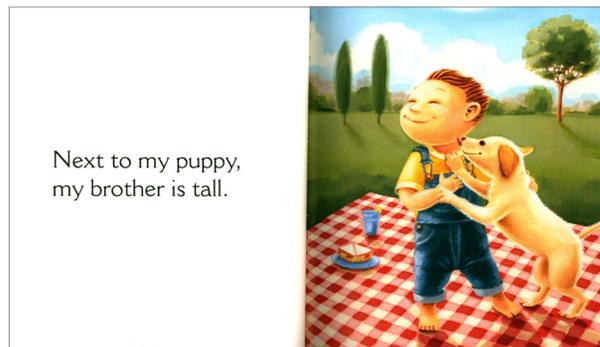
OTHER WORDS

berry, snail, mouse, shoe, cup, ball, basket, puppy, brother

About the Math

Next to an Ant is about size relationships. In the story, your child can learn:

- To notice and talk about the size of objects using words such as *tall* and *short*.
- That objects can be compared to find out which one is *taller* and which is *shorter*.
- How objects can at the same time be both *shorter* than some things and *taller* than others. For example, the cup is taller than the shoe but shorter than the ball. Young children may find this idea hard to understand.
- To guess what object might show up next in the story because it is taller than the object on the current page.



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Math Talk During Reading

COMPARE THE SIZE OF OBJECTS IN THE PICTURES

Which one is taller, the puppy or the brother? Which one is shorter, the snail or the mouse? Can you think of something taller than the girl?

EXPLORE OTHER WAYS TO TALK ABOUT THE OBJECTS' SIZES

The basket is taller than the ball, but it's also wider than the ball. Can you think of something wider than the basket?

MAKE A PREDICTION ABOUT WHAT OBJECT MIGHT APPEAR NEXT IN THE STORY

What do you think we'll see on the next page? Let's think of something taller than a snail.

TALK ABOUT DISTANCE

The parents in the background seem small. If they were closer, would they be taller or shorter than the girl?

Try to come up with some of your own questions and comments, too!

Activity After Reading

GO ON A SCAVENGER HUNT FOR OBJECTS OF VARIOUS SIZES AROUND YOUR HOME.

For example, tell your child to find an object *taller* than a box of cereal, an object *longer* than a spoon, and an object *shorter* than a chair.