***Pierre the Penguin***

***A True Story***

***By Jean Marzollo***

***Illustrated by Laura Regan***

* **About This Book**

This is a true story about Pierre, a small penguin in a museum in California. The people at the California Academy of Sciences worked together to help him. This book is written in verse so the language has rhythm and rhyme.

* **Before Reading**

Ask the students to:

1. sit “criss-cross”
2. hands in lap
3. eyes on the person speaking
4. raise hand to speak (explain that you won’t be able to call on everyone)

Keep in mind, kindergarten students have a very short attention span. It is best to keep a fast pace and give very clear directions. Use a big, strong voice. Try not to ask extra questions because students will get chatty and it will be hard to get back their attention.

Briefly introduce yourself:

* Your name & occupation
* Your favorite books when you were a child or that you read to your children
* You will be coming several times to share a story and give them each a book to keep
* Have students ask you questions about you (3 or so)

***Call attention to the cover illustration.*** Tell students that the title of the book is Pierre the Penguin and the author (person who wrote the book) is Jean Marzollo. The illustrator (person who drew the pictures) is Laura Regan.

Tell students that this is rhyming book. Rhyming words are words that sound the same at the end of the word. Ask the students to listen for rhymes as you read. Most of the words rhyme, but there are a few that are just close, but don’t actually rhyme.

* **Read the Story**
* **Interactive Reading Options (optional)**
  + When reading emphasize the rhyming words, stop before reading the last word in a line and see if students can guess the last (rhyming) word.
  + Ask students to listen carefully put up a thumb when they hear a new word they don’t know. Pause briefly to explain a few new words (choose 3-4):
    - observed (watched or noticed)
    - jam (difficult situation)
    - brayed (squawked loudly)
    - neoprene (thick, stretchy fabric)
  + Pause after the page where “Pierre is standing on a rock in his new wetsuit, looking mighty cute.” Ask students to cover their mouths and think in their heads what they think Pierre will do next. Have them whisper it to someone near them.
* **Wrap Up Questions (optional)**

The final page has a list of questions and answers that have often been asked at the museum. You can read this page to children as well.

Tell the children they will each get a copy of the book to keep. Encourage the children to read the book again at home.