***Whistle For Willie***

***By Ezra Jack Keats***

* **About This Book**

This is a story about a little boy named Peter. He has a playful imagination and he wants to be able to whistle so he can call his dog Willie.

* **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 Whistle for Willie and the author (person who wrote the book) and illustrator (person who made the pictures) is Ezra Jack Keats.

* **Read the Story**
* **Interactive Reading Options (optional)**
	+ At the beginning of the story, Peter wants to whistle but he can’t. Ask students to notice all the other things he does for fun instead of whistling.
	+ 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):
		- carton (box)
		- scrambled (ran or crawled quickly)
		- errand (quick trip to do a little job)
* **Wrap Up Questions (optional)**

Ask students to raise their hand if they have a pet. How do they call their pet? Does their pet come when they whistle?

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