

## **The Day the Babies Crawled Away by Peggy Rathmann**

I use this book to go with our discussion about 9/11 and heroes. In the classroom they would have already had their lesson on what 9/11 was before reading the book.

### **Before**

- Talk about what heroes are. Kids are usually going to start listing off jobs like police officer, soldier, or fire fighter. Try to get them to think about what makes them a hero.
- Discuss what it means to be brave. There are many different definitions you and your child could come up with.
- Take a picture walk. Flip through the pages of the book one at a time without reading anything. Just have your child look at the pictures and see what they notice.
- Reinforce what an author and illustrator are. Tell them Peggy Rathmann is the author what does that mean. She is also the illustrator what does that mean.

### **During**

- Always make sure you read the cover and title page. I always read the title as well as author and illustrator.
- Look at the pictures on the pages before the story starts. Talk about the thing they notice about the artwork and what's happening in the pictures. Keep this going throughout the whole story. The pictures are one of my favorite things about this story.
- Pick out rhyming words. This book has a lot of rhymes in it, have your child pick out the different rhymes as they hear them.
- Pick out a character to find on every page. My students always like to look for the baby with a bow on every page because she's usually hanging upside down doing something funny. They really enjoy pointing out what the different babies are doing on each page.

### **After**

- Talk about whether or not the little boy was a hero and brave.
- Don't stop at just a yes or no answer ask them why they think the way they do.
- Ask if they noticed anything about the artwork. Did they notice that it got darker as we went on to show the passage of time. You could also discuss this before reading or while reading.
- Silhouette Craft: Have your child use watercolors to paint very watery strips of color on a white paper. I hang them up while drying so that the colors drip into each other. When its all dry you can either let them draw whatever they want with a black marker or use stamps and black ink to create their silhouettes.