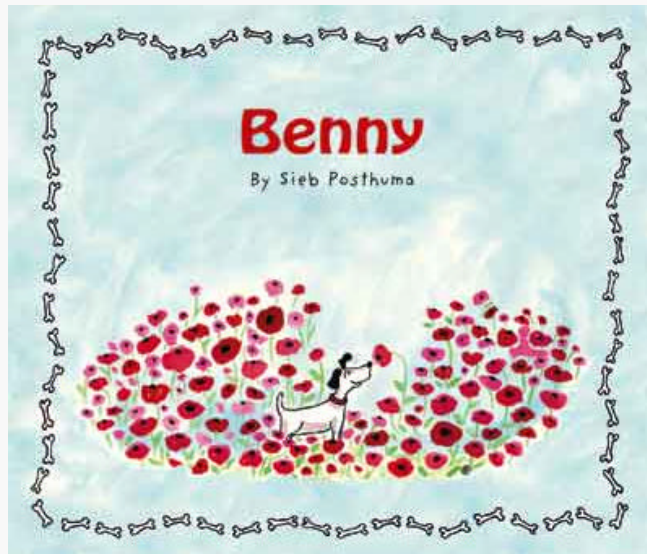


Kane/Miller Book Publishers



Benny by Sieb Posthuma



From the Netherlands

About the Book

Benny can't find his bone. He's sniffed everywhere and...nothing. There's no bone smell anywhere. He also can't smell the flowers, the lovely smell of old, leathery boots, and he can't smell the soapy water in the bucket. He can't smell his favorite meat pie or the delicious smells coming from Dottie's bakery. In fact, all the smells are gone! Maybe a visit to Dr. Duncan and his Sniff Machine can help.

About the Author / Illustrator

Sieb Posthuma was born in 1960 in Rotterdam, the Netherlands. He and the real Benny live in Amsterdam where Sieb works as a children's author and illustrator.

Before reading:

Show children the front of the book and read them the back cover.

- Why do you think Benny can't find his bone?
- Have you ever had trouble smelling something?
- How many of you have had to visit the doctor for an illness or injury?
- Discuss why we visit the doctor when we are sick and sometimes even when we are healthy.

Post reading:

- How did Benny first know his nose was not working quite right?
- Other than his bone, what are some of the things Benny was not able to smell? (Flowers, baked goods, old boots, a musty box, stale air, dog poop, apples, mother's special pie)
- Explain the meaning of musty and stale.
- What does Dr. Duncan suggest that Benny's mom do to help him get better? (Keep warm, breathe steam, rest.)
- Do you have other suggestions for how Benny could get better?
- What does Benny think "smells better than anything in the world?"

Activities:

1. Ask children to think about and share what they think smells great.

- Provide assorted, colored pieces of construction and tissue paper. Have children glue a variety of pieces to create something that smells great. For example: a flower (use tissue as the center of the flower) or a piece of pizza (use red tissue as the pepperoni). They will then glue the picture onto large white paper and write, "I love the smell of _____" or "_____ is my favorite thing to smell."

2. Hang a large piece of butcher paper with a line down the center. One side will say "things that smell good." The other side will say "things that don't smell very good."

- Provide children with magazines and ads. Ask them to cut out items that smell. They should be both good smelling and bad smelling.
- Each child can share one item they cut out before taping it to the chart.
- This is an opportunity to talk about smell as an "opinion" rather than a "fact". What smells good to one person may smell terrible to another.
- Children can then take their cutouts and glue them onto their own large piece of construction paper, doing just as they did as a group.

3. Guessing Game:

- Bring in various items for the children to smell, such as soap, a flower, dog food, grass, etc. While children are doing independent work, call one child over at a time and blindfold him or her. Present the smelly item and ask the child to guess what it is.
- Emphasize before beginning that the children should not tell each other what they items are that they have smelled. (Otherwise, it will spoil the fun for the other kids.)

4. Cooking:

If you have access to an oven, bake a batch of chocolate chip cookies. Children will love the smell and enjoy eating them!

Related Subjects:

Health, the five senses, mothers, dogs, books with dogs as the main character.

SNIFF WITH BENNY!

Have you ever had a cold like Benny has and not been able to smell anything? Benny especially missed smelling some of his favorite scents. On this page are some pictures you will recognize. Draw a circle around the ones you enjoy smelling and an X through those you would rather not smell. There are no wrong answers because everyone has different likes and dislikes! If your favorite smells are not shown here, draw them on a separate piece of paper.

