

pitter pattern

JOYCE HESSELBERTH



EDUCATORS' GUIDE

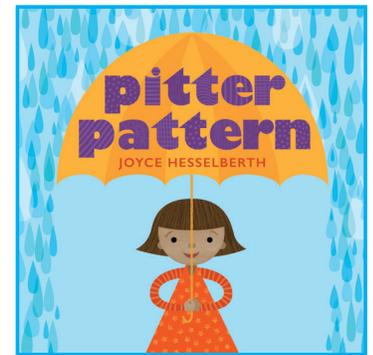
Book Talk

Patterns are all around you! Once you start looking, you'll find them in nature, buildings, fabric, music, and even weather. Join Lu as she observes and creates patterns throughout the week. Become a pattern detective by looking carefully at the colorful pictures and identifying the patterns of her life—and those in the world around you.



Discussion Questions

1. What do you learn from the pictures about Lu and her life? What gives her pleasure? Who are her friends and family? Describe her pet. What is her home like? Do you think you might enjoy knowing her?
2. Read the description of a “repeating pattern” at the back of the book. Then go through the pictures and identify some repeating patterns. Do you see other ones in your classroom and throughout your school?
3. Do the same thing with “growing patterns” described at the back of the book. Search for such patterns in the pictures and in your surroundings. Which type of pattern is easier to find?
4. Patterns can be found in sounds as well as images, as the first lines of the book convey: “Pitter, pitter, pat! Pitter, pitter, pat! Pitter, pitter, pat!” What kind of pattern is this? Where else in the book do the words create a pattern? Share poems, nursery rhymes, jump rope rhymes, or other patterned language from your life.
5. Name some familiar shapes, such as triangles, and find them in the pages of the book. Look in other picture books and see if you can find the shapes in them. Discuss which shapes are the most common and which are hardest to find.
6. Fabrics often have patterns in them. Look through the book and find patterns in the fabrics. Then look at fabrics around you in clothes, furniture, curtains, and elsewhere. What are some words we use to describe fabric patterns (e.g., *plaid*)?
7. Look at the picture of Lu and her grandmother traveling through the city to the zoo. What patterns do you see in the buildings and in forms of transportation such as cars? How about in nature? On your own way from school to home, look for patterns in your surroundings. Compare your observations with those of other students. Did you see the same patterns they did?
8. What is the pattern of seasons where you live? How about the patterns of weather, if any? Do days and nights vary in temperature where you live? Do you know of other places with different weather and seasonal patterns?
9. Find the pages that show the week as a pattern of time. What do different days of the week mean to Lu? What kind of routines do you have in your week? What other patterns related to time are part of your life? What objects, like clocks, reflect time in the world around you?
10. Pay careful attention to the text and the printed words in the book. When does the author use questions and exclamation points, and why? Find places where the typeface gets bigger and darker. What effect do those changes have on the words and how you read them?



Preschool-3

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Extension Activities

Sports Galore

One of the pictures shows patterns related to soccer, including patterns on the soccer ball. Ask students to choose a sport and think about different patterns related to it, such as those in scoring or equipment. Students should then create a poster that shows different patterns in that sport. Put up the posters around the room for everyone to see.

A Patterned Piece of History

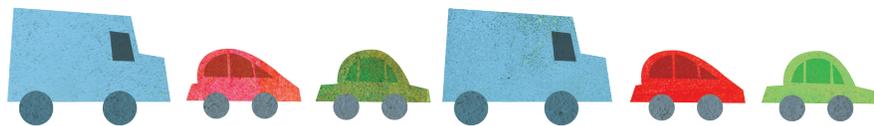
Talk with students about the role of quilts historically, as explained at this National Park Service website (nps.gov/home/playourvisit/quilt-discovery-experience.htm). Discuss the fact that quilt designs often have names, as they do in the book, and share some of those names. Invite each student to create a quilt square out of construction paper, modeling it on the squares in the book or those on the website or on another source like a family quilt. Consider connecting the squares to make a classroom quilt to hang on display.

It's a Dance-a-thon

Lu dances with four repeated steps—*jump, hop, kick, twirl*. As a class, make a list with these and other steps for dances such as *skip* or *tiptoe*. Ask small groups to work from the list and choreograph simple dances using patterns. They can also add basic percussion music with rhythm sticks, castanets, triangles, maracas, and so on. Have groups perform their dances and teach them to others in the class.

Puzzling Patterns

On the book's back cover, a puzzle challenges the viewer to spot a pattern and predict what would come next. Complete the puzzle as a class. Then have students work in pairs to devise three similar puzzles using patterns found in the book or of their own design. Once they've drawn the patterns, the students should trade quizzes and see if they can solve them.



About the Author

Joyce Hesselberth is a children's book illustrator, an app designer, and an illustration instructor at Maryland Institute College of Art. Her work has been recognized by *American Illustration*, the Society of Illustrators, and the Art Directors' Club of New York, among others. She is the author and illustrator of *Mapping Sam* and *Shape Shift*, which was a Bank Street Best Book of the Year and received a starred review from *Kirkus*. She lives with her family (and their two cats) in Baltimore.



Photo Credit: Emma Plunkert