The Costume Party

Story by Laura Burton Rice
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Practice reading these sentences.

Nick says, “Matt is a cat.
I can not be a cat.”
Tim’s bat is on Nick’s cot.
Matt sits on Nick’s cot. He says, “I am a cat.”
Tim points to his things on the cot. What is Tim’s costume?

Tim’s cap is on Nick’s cot. Tim’s bat is on Nick’s cot. He says, “I am a baseball player.”

Point to the bat. Point to the cap. What is Tim’s costume? [He is a baseball player.]
Nick looks at his two friends. What is wrong?

Nick looks at Tim and Matt. He says, “I can not be a cat. I can not be a baseball player." He is sad.

Point to Nick. Is Nick Sad? [yes]
Why is Nick sad? [He doesn’t know what he will wear to the party. He wants a costume that no one else has.]

Make a Prediction: What will Nick be for the costume party? (T-P-S) Have the students support their predictions.
Matt and Tim try to help Nick think of a costume. Tim has an idea.

Tim says, “You can be a dragon! I can pin on the tail.”

What is Tim’s idea? [Nick can be a dragon.]

Point to the dragon.
Nick jumps up so Tim can pin on a tail made out of socks. But then Don comes in. Nick looks at him. What is the matter?

Don is a dragon. Nick sits on the cot. He says, “I can not be a dragon.” He is sad.

Point to Don.
What is Don’s costume? [He is a dragon.]
Why is Nick sad? [Now Nick cannot be a dragon.]
Then Don has an idea. What is it?

Don says, “You can be a 🐨! I can get a 🎩 hat.”

Point to the pirate.
Point to the pirate hat.
Again, Nick jumps up. Ann knocks on the door and comes in. What do you think her costume is?

Ann is a 🎩. Nick sits on the cot. He says, “I can not be a 🎩.” He is sad.

Point to Ann.
What is Ann’s costume? [She is a pirate.]
Why is Nick sad again? [He wanted to be a pirate too.]
Nick sits on the cot and thinks about what costume to wear to the party. Then Nick has an idea.

Nick says, “Dad is a policeman. I can be a policeman!”

Why is Nick happy now? [He has an idea for a costume. He can be a policeman.]
Nick talks to his dad. His dad helps him get everything he needs for a policeman costume.

Nick gets Dad’s jacket.
Nick gets Dad’s hat.
Nick gets Dad’s badge.

Finally, Nick has a costume to wear to the party! He is so excited, he can hardly wait for the party to begin!

Point to the police hat.
Point to the police jacket.
Point to the police badge.
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Use T-P-S to discuss these questions.

1. Why are the children dressing up?
   [They are going to a costume party.]

2. Name some of the costumes in the story.
   [Some of the costumes are cat, baseball player, dragon, pirate, and policeman.]

3. Why is Nick happy at the end of the story?
   [Nick is happy because he finally thinks of a costume that no one else has. He can be a policeman.]
Reading Roots, Level 1
The Costume Party
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