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Activity Guide

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The Treasure

ABOUT THE STORY

Isaac is a very poor man. One night, he dreams that there is a treasure under a bridge in the capitol city. After dreaming the same dream twice more, he journeys to the city to find the treasure. What he finds there is even more surprising than his dream.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR / ILLUSTRATOR

Uri Shulevitz was born in Poland and grew up there, in France, and in Israel. He won the Caldecott Medal for his illustrations of *The Fool of the World and the Flying Ship* by Arthur Ransome. *The Treasure* is a Caldecott Honor Book, as is his book *Snow*, another Live Oak Media Readalong. Mr. Shulevitz now lives in New York City.

INTRODUCING THE STORY

Ask children if they have ever had a dream so vivid it seemed real. Have volunteers describe their dreams. Tell them that the story they will read is about a man whose dream changes his life.

READING ACTIVITIES

Comprehension/Thinking Skills

- “How many times does Isaac have the dream?”
- “What does Isaac find in the capital city?”
- “What does the captain of the guards tell Isaac?”
- “Why does Isaac send the captain a ruby?” (*Draw conclusions*)
- “Would Isaac have found the treasure if he had not gone to the city? Explain your answer.” (*Analyze*)

Vocabulary

Have children define each of these words from the story. Then have them use the words in a story of their own about finding a treasure.

poverty attention capital inscription pity

CROSS-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Art: Draw a Treasure

Have children draw a picture of a treasure they would like to find. Would there be money, gold, jewels, or something else in their treasure? Display the pictures in the classroom.

Language Arts: Understanding a Moral

Write Isaac’s inscription on the chalkboard:

“Sometimes one must travel far to discover what is near.”

Have children write about what the inscription might mean. Is it only talking about treasure or is there another meaning? Discuss the meanings children find in the inscription.

Social Studies: Treasure Seekers

Throughout history, people have looked for treasure. Two well-known episodes of treasure seeking were the Spanish search for the North American city of gold in the sixteenth century and the British search for treasure in Egyptian tombs on the nineteenth century. Have children work in groups to find out what happened in these treasure hunts. Groups can report on their findings to the class.

Science: Jewels

Isaac sent a ruby to the captain of the guards. Have children use encyclopedias and other reference books to find out how rubies or other jewels are formed. They can write a brief explanation of how the jewels are formed and where they are found.

INTERNET ACTIVITY

Before you send children to do research using any of the keywords listed below, you may wish to try them yourself to be sure the sites are suitable.

Uri Shulevitz Stories

Have the children use the keywords *Uri Shulevitz* to find descriptions of other books by the author on the Internet. Children can choose a book they might like to read and write a brief description of it, explaining why it interests them.