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# Activity Guide

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## Henry & Mudge and the Long Weekend

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### ABOUT THE STORY

When Henry wakes up on a dull, gray February weekend, he knows he is facing two boring days. Much to his surprise, though, he and his parents-and his faithful dog Mudge-come up with a great idea that makes the weekend not only interesting but also positively fun.

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Cynthia Rylant has written many other books about Henry and Mudge, including *Henry and Mudge in Puddle Trouble* and *Henry and Mudge Get the Cold Shivers*, both Live Oak Readalongs. Her books have won dozens of awards; in 1993 she received the Newbery Award for her novel *Missing May*. She always loved big, drooly dogs, just like Mudge, and lives with two of them in her house in Eugene, Oregon.

### ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

Sucie Stevenson knows all about big Mudge-like dogs, too-she has two of her own. She has illustrated all the other Henry and Mudge tales.

### INTRODUCING THE STORY

Ask children what sort of activities they like to do on the weekend. Write their suggestions on the chalkboard. Then tell them that the book they will read is about a boy who spends what could have been a long, boring weekend doing something really fun.

### READING ACTIVITIES

#### **Comprehension/Thinking Skills**

- "How do Henry & Mudge feel about the weekend at first?"
- "Who comes up with the idea to build a castle?"
- "Who makes most of the castle?"
- "Who gets to be the king?"
- "How does Henry feel about the weekend when it is all done?" (*Comparing and Contrasting*)
- "What does Henry learn over the weekend?" (*Draw conclusions*)

### Vocabulary

Write these words and sentences on the chalkboard. Have children use context clues to choose the correct vocabulary word to complete each sentence.

turrets                      drawbridge                      knights                      stapler

- The finished castle had many \_\_\_\_\_ decorating it.
- The builders used a \_\_\_\_\_ to hold the castle together.
- The castle had a \_\_\_\_\_ that could be raised or lowered.
- Henry and his father dressed up as \_\_\_\_\_.

### CROSS-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

#### **Social Studies: Life in a Castle**

Provide children with books about castle life and ask each child to find information on one aspect of life in a castle. Children can report on what castle-dwellers wore, what they did during the day, what music they listened to, and so on.

#### **Art: Draw a Castle**

Ask children to draw a picture of a castle in which they might like to live. Encourage them to make their pictures as detailed as possible. When pictures are complete, hang them in the room as a castle gallery.

#### **Health: Castle Foods**

Help children find information on the foods medieval castle-dwellers might have eaten. If possible, provide cookbooks with medieval recipes. Children can choose a dish they find interesting and copy the recipe. Collect the recipes in a castle cookbook.

#### **Language Arts: Specialized Words**

Have children find definitions for these words about castles. Encourage them to write down the etymology, or origin, of each word.

buttress                      oubliette                      bailey                      moat                      crenels

### 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.

#### **Real Castles**

Have children use the keyword castles to find pictures on the Internet of real castles around the world. If your computers have print capabilities, have each child print out a picture of their favorite castle. They can write down two or three facts about the castle they choose.