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Activity Guide

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Wiley and the Hairy Man

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ABOUT THE STORY

The Hairy Man lives in the swamp, and he wants to eat Wiley. Wiley's mother knows that the only way to be safe from the Hairy Man is to fool him three times. With his mother's help, Wiley fools the Hairy Man twice. But are they smart enough to fool him a third time?

ABOUT THE AUTHOR/ILLUSTRATOR

Molly Garrett Bang was born in New Jersey and has lived in Europe, Japan, India, and Africa. She has created two Caldecott Honor Books, *The Grey Lady and the Strawberry Snatcher* and *Ten, Nine, Eight*. She is especially fond of the story Wiley and the Hairy Man because unlike most folktales, it features a mother who outsmarts her foe.

INTRODUCING THE STORY

Ask children if they can name any folktales. Write their suggestions on the chalkboard. Explain that a folktale is a story handed down, often orally, from generation to generation. Tell them that the story they are about to read is an example of such a folktale.

READING ACTIVITIES

Comprehension/Thinking Skills

- "What does the Hairy Man look like?"
- "What does the Hairy Man want with Wiley?"
- "How does Wiley fool the Hairy Man the first time?"
- "How does Wiley fool the Hairy Man the second time?"
- "Who do you think is smarter, the Hairy Man or Wiley's mother? Explain." (*Comparing and contrasting*)
- "Do you think this is a true story? Why or why not?" (*Making judgments*)

Vocabulary

Have children use context clues to complete each of these sentences with one of the words from the box.

bamboo roost conjure chimney piglet boll weevils

- The Hairy Man tried to come down the _____.
- Wiley had to cut poles for the hen _____.
- Wiley cut _____ in the swamp.
- The Hairy Man used magic to _____.
- The Hairy Man threatened to send _____ to eat cotton.
- Wiley's mother fooled the Hairy Man with a _____.

CROSS-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Science: Life in a Swamp

Have children work in two groups to find out what animals and plants live in a swamp. One group can focus on animal life, and the other group can find out about plant life. Have groups present oral reports on the information they find about swamp life.

Language Arts: Another Folktale

Ask children to find an example of another folktale they like. Provide them with collections of folktales if possible. Each child can choose a folktale and read it or retell it to the class. Encourage children to explain why they like the tale they chose.

Art: Monstrous Drawing

The Hairy Man is a frightful monster. Have children draw their own scary monsters. Encourage them to make their monsters as frightening as they can. They can title their drawings with the name of their monsters.

Science: The Boll Weevil

The Hairy Man threatens to send boll weevils to eat up Wiley's cotton. Have children use encyclopedias to find out about the boll weevil and how it affects cotton. Children can write brief reports on the boll weevil and its habits.

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.

Folktales Around the World

Children can use the keywords *folktales* to find Websites that feature folktales from different lands. Have children print out a folktale from a different land or summarize a tale in their own words. Children can read or describe their folktales to the class.