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Activity Guide

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I Took My Frog to The Library

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ABOUT THE STORY

Bridgett has some very unusual pets, and she wants to take them all to the library. Each animal misbehaves in a different way, from the frog that jumps on the checkout desk, to the elephant that wrecks the whole building. Now, Bridgett still goes to the library-but she leaves her pets at home.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Eric A. Kimmel has been a professor of education at Portland State University and a past president of the Oregon Reading Association. He is storyteller and the author of many picture books, including *The Gingerbread Man*, also a Live Oak Readalong.

ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

Blanche Sims, a self-taught artist, has illustrated many children's books. The mother of four grown children, Ms. Sims has seven grandchildren. She lives in Westport, Connecticut.

INTRODUCING THE STORY

Ask children to list some of the rules for good behavior in various places such as the classroom, the school cafeteria and the library. Introduce the story by explaining that it is about a girl whose friends break all the library rules.

READING ACTIVITIES

Comprehension/Thinking Skills

- “What does the frog do wrong?”
- “What does the elephant do wrong?”
- “How do the animals' mistakes affect the people in the library?”
- “How does Bridgett keep the animals happy when she goes to the library alone?”
- “Why doesn't the librarian want animals in the library?” (*Draw Conclusions*)

Vocabulary

Remind children that regular past tense verbs are formed by adding –ed to the present tense form. Irregular past tense verb are formed in many different ways. Write these regular and irregular present tense verbs on the chalkboard. Ask children to define and act out each verb. Then help them form the past tense of the verb.

jump	listen	laugh	wreck
take	hide	shed	say

CROSS-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Health: Manners, Everyone!

Point out that the story tells what happened when animals behave badly. Encourage the group to put together a book of rules on manners. They can divide the book into parts on behavior in different situations, such as home, school, meals, and library.

Language Arts: Animals Errors

In the story, a frog, a hen, a pelican, a python, a hyena, a giraffe, and an elephant misbehave. Have children imagine what might happen if Bridgett brought other animals to the library. Each child can write what might happen with an animal of his or her choice in the library.

Art: Animal House

On the second-to-last page of the story, children can see the inside of Bridgett's house, with an animal in each room. Have children draw a room from their own house with an animal of their choice in it. Display the pictures in the classroom.

Language Arts: Library Layout

Go over the organization of the library with the class. Have them make a map of their school or local library, labeling the areas for children's books, adult fiction, nonfiction, reference, newspapers, and magazines, audiovisual materials, computers, and so on. The group can use their map to locate materials when they visit the library.

INTERNET ACTIVITY

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

Real Animals

Ask children to choose one of Bridgett's animals to research on the Internet. Children can find out about the habits and habitat of the animals they have picked using the animals name as a keyword. Encourage them to report on what they learn to the rest of the class.