



Activity Guide

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Madeline's Rescue

ABOUT THE STORY

The timely rescue of Madeline from the waters of the River Seine by a heroic dog results in the dog's adoption by Madeline and her classmates. School officials, however, banish the dog, and an irate Madeline leads her friends in a search to restore the dog to its new home at their school.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR/ILLUSTRATOR

Ludwig Bemelmans is probably best known for his lovable character Madeline. Born in an area of Austria and raised in Germany, Bemelmans later immigrated to the United States. The inspired amateurishness of the illustrations and the sophisticated doggerel verses have been an influence on later juvenile literature. Madeline's Rescue, Bemelmans' second book in the Madeline series, was awarded the Caldecott Medal in 1953.

INTRODUCING THE STORY

Ask children to define the word rescue. What does it mean to rescue something? Explain that in this story, Madeline is rescued from a river by an unusual heroine.

READING ACTIVITIES

Language Arts: Vocabulary/Dictionary Skills

Several words in this story may be difficult for children to understand. Depending on ability level, use a dictionary to look up the following terms and/or spend time discussing their definitions.

frighten	chamomile	nervousness
trustees	inspection	gendarmes
vengeance	thorough	disaster

Locate each word in the story have the children read the sentence it is in. Then have children make up their own original sentences.

Language Arts: Sequencing

This activity may be done as a group, or independently. Have children read the following sentences from the story and then put them in chronological order. Use the story to verify sequence after completion.

1. The girls named the dog Genevieve.
2. A dog rescued Madeline.
3. After Miss Genevieve came back, there was enough hound to go all around.
4. Madeline slipped and fell into the river.
5. Lord Cucuface sent Miss Genevieve away.

CROSS-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Science: Animal welfare

In the story, the officials kick the dog out of the school. Discuss why this is inhumane and unacceptable. Explain what an animal shelter is. What could have happened to the dog had she been turned over to the animal shelter? (be adopted, happy) What could have happened if she were forced to live on the streets and be homeless? (starve, get sick, get hit by a car, etc.) What would life have been like for her puppies if she had them on the streets?

Life Skills: Field Trip

To build upon the science lesson, take the children to an animal shelter for a guided tour. Discuss what animals need to be happy (love, food, water, play, brushing, etc.). Talk about volunteering at animal shelters.

Geography: The River Seine

Madeline was rescued from the River Seine in Paris. Locate the river on a map. Distribute copies of the map and have the children color and label the river. What famous church is located on an island of this river? (Notre Dame)

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.

Use the Internet to locate information the various topics from this story, such as the River Seine, animal welfare, or boarding schools. Use the information found to compile a report or other project (diorama, poster, clay model, etc.)