

Stop, Drop and Roll

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ABOUT THE STORY

Jessica is a real worrier. And when Fire Prevention Week starts, her worries get even worse. Smoke alarms, sprinkler systems, escape plans – it's too much to think about. When Jessica is picked to illustrate stop, drop, and roll to the rest of the school, she is even more worried. How can she remember what to do? Will she get it right?

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Margery Cuyler grew up in the oldest house in Princeton, New Jersey. She has been a children's book editor for more than twenty years. She has always enjoyed writing for children and is the author of many books for young readers. She still lives in the same house where she grew up, now with her husband, two sons, and two cats.

ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

Arthur Howard has illustrated many well-known picture books. He is also the author of several books for young readers. He lives in New York City.

INTRODUCING THE STORY

Ask children if they know any rules for fire safety. Write their suggestions on the chalkboard. Then tell them that the book they will read is about a girl who learns about fire safety but still worries about the possibility of fire.

READING ACTIVITIES

Comprehension/Thinking Skills

- “What are some of the things Jessica worries about?”
- “What happens when Jessica asks her family about fire alarms and sprinklers?”
- “How does Jessica feel when she learns about stop, drop, and roll?”
- What does Jessica do when she sees Tom's birthday cake?
- “How does Jessica's reaction to the cake help her?” (Draw conclusions)
- “Do you think Jessica will finally stop worrying? Why or why not? (Make predictions)

Vocabulary

Write these root words and suffixes on the chalkboard. Have children match each root with a suffix to create a vocabulary word from the story. Explain that the spelling of the root word might change when the suffix is added. Then encourage them to work in pairs to look in a dictionary to find the definition for each word.

safe	-al
appoint	-sion
extend	-al
profession	-ty
electric	-ment

CROSS-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Art: Fire Prevention Poster

Ask children to work in small groups to make fire prevention posters based on the tips on the back of the book. Children can illustrate their posters to make them eye-catching and to clarify the tips they include. Hang completed posters around the classroom.

Health: Fire Safety at Home

Have children make a fire safety checklist to use in their homes. They should include such items as smoke alarms, sprinkler system, escape plan, safe electric heaters, and safe extension cords on their checklists. Children can check their homes using their lists and rate their fire safety.

Language Arts: Greatest Worries

Jessica worries about fire, but knowing what to do helps her worry less. Ask children to write down something they find worrisome. Then have them think of ways that knowledge can help them worry less. For example, if they worry about getting lost in a public place, they can write that knowing where to meet and where police or security guards are located can lessen their worry.

Social Studies: Great Fires in History

Have children work in three groups, each of which can learn about one of the great fires in history: the Great Fire of London, 1666; the Chicago fire of 1871, or the San Francisco earthquake fire of 1906. Children can look in books and encyclopedias for information, take notes on what they find, and present oral reports on their fire to the class.

INTERNET ACTIVITY

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

More Fire Safety

Have children use the keywords fire safety tips to search the Internet for additional fire safety rules. If they find any rules or suggestions other than the ones in the book, encourage them to jot them down and share them with the class.