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Activity Guide

800-788-1121

The Doorbell Rang

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ABOUT THE STORY

Sam and Victoria are about to sit down to eat a plate of their mother's cookies when suddenly the doorbell rings. As visitors come in and the doorbell keeps ringing, Sam and Victoria see their six cookies apiece growing fewer and fewer — until the last ring of the doorbell.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR/ILLUSTRATOR

Pat Hutchins was born in Yorkshire, England, and now lives in London. She began her career as an artist by drawing pictures for a neighbor, who paid her with a chocolate bar for each illustration. She trained at the Leeds College of Art and published her first book in 1968. She was awarded the Kate Greenaway Medal in 1974 for *The Wind Blows* and has written and illustrated more than twenty other books. Among them are *The Very Worst Monster* and *Happy Birthday, Sam*, both Live Oak Readalongs.

INTRODUCING THE STORY

Ask children if they have ever had to share a favorite snack with friends. Encourage them to discuss how they felt about sharing. Then tell them that the children in the book they will read have to share...and share...and share!

READING ACTIVITIES

Comprehension/Thinking Skills

- "How many cookies does Sam and Victoria's mother make?"
- "Who are the first visitors?"
- "Who are the second visitors?"
- "What happens as each visitor arrives?"
- "How many cookies does each child have after Joy and Simon arrive?"
- "What might the children have done if Grandma had been another child visitor?" (Draw conclusions)

Vocabulary

Write these words and sentences on the chalkboard. Have children fill in each blank with the word that best completes the sentence.

enormous cousins starving plenty

1. My aunt's children are my _____.
2. Jonah was _____ after skipping lunch.
3. There is _____ of time to get to the movie.
4. The mother elephant looked _____ compared to her baby.

CROSS-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Health: Favorite Cookies

Have children look in cookbooks to find a favorite cookie recipe, or bring one from home. Children can copy out their recipes, adding illustrations if they like. Collect the recipes in a class Cookie Book.

Math: Grandma's Batch

Have the children work with partners to count the cookies on Grandma's tray in one of the illustrations (the totals are different in the two pictures). Then ask them to figure out how many children can visit for each child to get one of Grandma's cookies. How many can visit for each to get two cookies?

Drama: Act It Out

The limited dialogue and repetitive action make this a natural for play-acting. Pick fourteen children to play the parts of the children, the mother, and Grandma. Rehearse the action and the dialogue with them, and have them perform the story for the rest of the group. Give the other children a chance to rehearse and perform the story, too (some actors may have to be in both performances).

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.

Strange Cookies

Have children go online and use the keywords cookie recipes to find recipes on the Internet. Encourage them to copy the strangest or most interesting recipe they find. You can add these recipes to the class Cookie Book.



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Llaman a la Puerta

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ABOUT THE STORY

Each ring of the doorbell brings more and more friends to share in the delicious cookies Mama has made. Will there be enough to go around?

ABOUT THE AUTHOR / ILLUSTRATOR

Pat Hutchins tends to see the humorous side of any situation and has the ability to capture it in words and illustrations. In the same vein as *Don't Forget the Bacon!* Are her equally popular books, *Rosie's Walk*, *Follow That Bus!*, and *The Very Worst Monster*. Ms. Hutchins lives in London, England with her husband and two sons.

INTRODUCING THE STORY

Mom just baked a batch of delicious cookies for Victoria and Santiago. Just as they sit down to eat, the doorbell rings. That's OK – there are plenty of cookies. But then the doorbell rings again....and again....

READING ACTIVITIES

Comprehension/Thinking Skills

- “How did Victoria and Santiago solve the problem of more and more friends coming to visit?”
- “Toward the end of the story, why did Mama think the children should eat the cookies before she answered the door?”
- “Why did Santiago want to wait?”
- “Who do you think was at the door at the end of the story?”

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