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Activity Guide

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If The Dinosaurs Came Back

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ABOUT THE STORY

What would life be like if the dinosaurs came back and were actually helpful to people? Imagine all the different nice things they could do! That's exactly what author-illustrator Bernard Most does in this book as he takes a very funny look at what might happen if the dinosaurs returned.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR/ILLUSTRATOR

Bernard Most is an associate creative director and vice president of a New York advertising agency. He is also the father of two sons, Glenn and Eric, both of whom are extremely fond of dinosaurs. Not surprisingly, he wrote this book to amuse his two dinosaur fans.

INTRODUCING THE STORY

Ask the group to think about the different tasks that animals perform for people. Horses, for example, pull wagons and carry people, dogs pull sleds and act as watchdogs, elephants perform with the circus, and so on. But what could dinosaurs do to help and entertain people? Tell children that they will find out when they read this book.

READING ACTIVITIES

Comprehension/Thinking Skills

- "What is the little boy doing in bed?"
- "Why wouldn't people need any more lawn mowers?"
- "How could dinosaurs help farmers?"
- "How could dinosaurs help librarians?"
- "How could dinosaurs make sure the sun would always shine?"
- "How do you think people would react if dinosaurs really came back?" (Make predictions)

Vocabulary

The following words may be unfamiliar to the group. Define and review each. Then ask volunteers to use the words in sentences.

beware	plow	lumberjacks	skyscrapers
slopes	rescue	librarians	ski

CROSS-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Science: The End of the Dinosaurs

Have children work in small groups to find out what might have happened to the dinosaurs. Provide encyclopedias and books on dinosaurs for them to use. Groups can report on the information they find to the rest of the class. If they report on more than one theory, discuss which of the theories is most likely to be true.

Art: Dinosaur Picture

Have children think of another way in which dinosaurs could help or entertain people. They can draw pictures to illustrate their ideas. Hang their pictures around the classroom.

Social Studies: Dinosaurs in Your Yard

Show children a map that indicates where different dinosaur remains have been found in the United States. Pinpoint the dinosaur finds closest to your region. Work with children to learn about the dinosaurs that were found in your area.

Science: Extinct!

Have children research and report on another extinct animal. Some possibilities include the mammoth, the mastodon, the saber-toothed tiger, the giant sloth, and the dodo. Discuss why these animals died out, and lead children to see the importance of preserving animal species from extinction.

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.

Cyberspace Dinosaurs

Have each child choose a dinosaur to research on the Internet. Using the name of the dinosaur as a keyword, children can find websites with information about their choice. Have them write down three facts about their dinosaur and report on them to the class.