



www.liveoakmedia.com

Activity Guide

800-788-1121

The Case of the Fidgety Fox

Live Oak Readalongs are protected by copyright. The components in Live Oak Readalongs may not be reproduced in any form by any means without prior written permission.

ABOUT THE STORY

The High-Rise Private Eyes are on the case again! This time, they're looking for a pair of fuzzy dice that belong to Melvin the bus driver. Will they find the dice? Will they get them back to Melvin?

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Cynthia Rylant has written several other books about the High-Rise Private Eyes, including *The Case of the Missing Monkey*, *The Case of the Puzzling Possum*, and *The Case of the Sleepy Sloth*, all Live Oak Readalongs. Her books have won dozens of awards; in 1993 she received the Newbery Award for her novel *Missing May*. She is also the author of the Henry and Mudge books. She lives with her family in Washington State.

ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

G. Brian Karas was born in Connecticut. He went to the Paier School of Art and worked at Hallmark Cards for three years. After his first children's book was published in 1983, he went on to illustrate more than fifty books for young readers, including *The Case of the Sleepy Sloth*, another Live Oak Readalong.

INTRODUCING THE STORY

Ask children if they have ever solved a mystery by finding something that was lost. Encourage them to describe their experiences. Then tell them that the book they will read is about two detectives who look for a missing item.

READING ACTIVITIES

Comprehension/Thinking Skills

- "Why didn't the bus driver want to drive?"
- "What did Jack and Bunny discover at the bus garage?"
- "Where did Jack and Bunny go after they left the bus garage?"
- "Who took the fuzzy dice?"
- "Did the thief mean to steal the dice? Explain." (*Draw Conclusions*)

Vocabulary

Write these words and sentences on the chalkboard. Have children copy the sentences, writing the correct word in each blank.

allergic concentrate nervous gardenias

1. Driving makes some people feel very _____.
2. _____ are flowers with a strong scent.
3. If you are _____ to something, you may sneeze and have watery eyes.
4. When you study in a quiet room, it is easier to _____.

CROSS-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Health: Yoga Poses

Bunny does yoga on Saturday mornings. Have children work in pairs to look in books on yoga or on the Internet to find a yoga pose. They can practice the pose together. Then have pairs show the poses they find to the rest of the class. Encourage them to give the name of the pose and tell what it is supposed to do.

Social Studies: Mapping a Bus Route

Much of *The Case of the Fidgety Fox* takes place on a bus. Provide children with Xeroxed maps of their towns or neighborhoods. Have children draw in a bus route that they take frequently. It can be a school bus or a city bus route. If children don't take the bus, ask them to draw a bus route on the map that would take them from school to home.

Art: Hanging from the Rear-View Mirror

Point out to children that people have many different things hanging from their rear-view mirrors. Pass out pairs of Styrofoam balls and twine to children. Ask them to paint and decorate the balls to make decorations to hang from a rear-view mirror. When children have finished their decorations, help them to string them on twine so they can hang them around the classroom.

Language Arts: Cartoon Plots

Jack describes the plots of his favorite cartoons to Bunny. Ask children to do the same. Have them think of the story line of one of their favorite cartoons. Children can write a paragraph or two describing what happens in the story. Encourage them to describe the characters and setting as well as the plot of the cartoon.

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.

Doing the Fox Trot

Grandpa Fox is learning the Fox Trot at his dance lesson. Children can use the keywords *fox trot steps* to find out how to do the dance on the Internet. Have them work in pairs to find a simple set of Fox Trot instructions. Pairs can practice the Fox Trot and perform it for the rest of the class.