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# Activity Guide

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## Eulalie and the Hopping Head

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### ABOUT THE STORY

Mother Lumps loves her child Eulalie, even though Eulalie sometimes behaves badly. When Mrs. Shinn mistakes a doll left behind at a picnic for a baby, claiming it is the perfect child, Mother Lumps takes the abandoned child home. The doll does nothing wrong, except to lose her head on occasion, but before long, Mother Lumps realizes that a flesh-and-blood child, even one who misbehaves, is far more lovable than a perfect doll.

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR/ ILLUSTRATOR

David Small received a Master of Fine Arts from Yale University. He now lives in Mendon, Michigan, with his wife, Sarah Stewart. He has written and illustrated many books for children, including *George Washington's Cows* and *Paper John*, both Live Oak Readalongs.

### INTRODUCING THE STORY

Ask children if they have ever tried to be "perfect." Discuss with them how a "perfect" child would behave, and why it would be impossible to be a perfect child. Then tell them that the book they will read is about a mother who finds a perfect child and how she reacts to it.

### READING ACTIVITIES

#### **Comprehension/Thinking Skills**

- "How does Mrs. Shinn think a perfect child should behave?"
- "What is the real identity of the "child" Mrs. Shinn and Mother Lumps find?"  
(*Draw Conclusions*)
- "Where does Eulalie hide?"
- "What does Mother Lumps think when Eulalie speaks through the baby's mouth?"
- "What happens when Mother Lumps gives the baby a drink?"
- "Why does Mother Lumps love Eulalie more than the perfect child?" (*Make Inferences*)

### Vocabulary

Write these words and definitions on the chalkboard. Have children copy both columns and then draw lines matching each word to its definition.

abandoned	very upset or angry
fortunately	in a worried way
anxiously	a slow walk
outraged	left or deserted
stroll	with great luck

### CROSS-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

#### **Science: Toad Life**

Have children learn about real-life toads in books and encyclopedias. They can work in groups, with each group focusing on one species of toad. Ask groups to write a brief report on the life cycle and habitat of the toad they have chosen. Groups can present their reports to the class.

#### **Health: Rules of Behavior**

Mrs. Shinn believes that a well-mannered child is quiet, doesn't eat or get dirty, and stays in one place. Have children work in pairs to write their own rules of good behavior for children. Encourage them to come up with five to ten rules of good manners. The class can discuss their rules together.

#### **Science: Fox Manners**

Mrs. Shinn is a fox with nine children who behave beautifully. Ask children to work in small groups to find out how fox cubs really behave. Have them look in reference books or encyclopedias to learn how many cubs are usually in a litter, how quickly cubs grow up, and how they act as they are learning and growing. Groups can report to the class on what they learn.

#### **Language Arts: Animals as People**

The animals in *Eulalie and the Hopping Head* behave a lot like humans do. Have children go through the book and write down the human things that the characters do. Then ask them to write down anything the characters do that is animal-like. Children can compare their lists with classmates' when they are finished.

### 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.

#### **Toad Pictures**

Have children search the Internet using the keywords "toad pictures" for photographs of the strangest or ugliest toads they can find. If possible, children can print out the pictures to show to the rest of the class. Display the pictures around the room.