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Activity Guide

800-788-1121

The Case of the Sleepy Sloth

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ABOUT THE STORY

Ramón's lawn chair is missing from his houseboat, and the High-Rise Private Eyes are on the case again. They track down clues and interview suspects. But it isn't until a pink flamingo blows by in the wind that they begin to crack the case.

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 Fidgety Fox*, 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 Fidgety Fox*, another Live Oak Readalong.

INTRODUCING THE STORY

Ask children to describe the strangest thing they have ever lost. Write their responses on the chalkboard. Then tell them that the book they will read is about a very strange lost item – a lawn chair!

READING ACTIVITIES

Comprehension/Thinking Skills

- “What happens to Jack and Bunny’s pizza?”
- “Why is Ramón sneaking around?”
- “Where do Jack and Bunny find the lawn chair?”
- “What helps Jack and Bunny figure out what happened to the lawn chair? (Make Connections)”
- “Why can’t Jack and Bunny bring the lawn chair back right away?” (Draw Conclusions)

Vocabulary

Write these sets of the words on the chalkboard. Ask volunteers to draw lines between the words to create compound words from the story. Children can then choose three of the compound words to use in sentences of their own.

earth	boat
note	shine
sea	wood
sun	book
house	quake
red	gull

CROSS-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Math: Your Favorite Pizza

Have children do a survey to find out what kinds of pizza are their favorites. On the chalkboard, make a chart with five columns labeled “Plain,” “Pepperoni,” “Other Meat,” “Mushroom,” and “Other Vegetable.” Have children name their favorites and keep count on the chart. Encourage them to create a bar graph of pizza favorites showing the totals from the chart.

Science: Tracking the Wind

The wind plays an important role in the story. Children can keep track of the wind for a week by making a wind flag and taking notes. Provide groups with a piece of nylon material and a tall stick. Children can cut their wind flags into a triangular shape and attach it to the stick. After placing their wind flags outside, children can keep a chart for a week showing which direction the wind is blowing by noting in which direction their flag is blown.

Language Arts: Tongue Twisters

Jack and Bunny have fun making up a tongue twister. Children can have fun with tongue twisters, too. Encourage them to look in books of tongue twisters for one they think is especially challenging. Ask them to write their tongue twister on a piece of paper. Children can have a tongue-twister bee, in which they take turns saying the tongue twisters they have collected three times quickly. Each child who stumbles on a tongue twister is eliminated. The child who says the most tongue twisters accurately is the winner.

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.

The Windiest Places

Children can find out more about the wind on the Internet. Have them work in groups using the keywords *windiest places on Earth* to find out about one especially windy location. Groups can write a brief description of the place, including the force of the wind and its effects, and report back to the class on what they have learned.