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Activity Guide

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Elvis the Rooster Almost Goes to Heaven

ABOUT THE STORY

Elvis is getting ready to crow at sunrise when a bug flies into his mouth. He chokes, doesn't crow – and the sun rises anyway! Convinced he is useless, Elvis lies in bed and waits to die. His friends must come up with a plan to convince Elvis that he is vital in getting the sun to rise. Can Elvis get his pluck back?

ABOUT THE AUTHOR/ILLUSTRATOR

Denys Cazet worked as a cook, gardener, ditch digger, farmer, cable splicer, and school librarian before he began writing books for children. He is the author of the Minnie and Moo books, including *Minnie and Moo Go to the Moon*, *Minnie and Moo Save the Earth*, and *Minnie and Moo Go Dancing*, as well as *Elvis the Rooster and the Magic Words*, all Live Oak Media Readalongs. Denys Cazet lives in northern California.

INTRODUCING THE STORY

Ask children if they have ever heard a rooster crow at sunrise. Then tell them that the book they will read is about a rooster who believes the sun only rises because he crows.

READING ACTIVITIES

Comprehension/Thinking Skills

- “Why does Elvis faint?”
- “Why does Elvis think he is useless?”
- “What do the other animals plan to do?”
- “Why does Elvis finally feel better?” (*Draw Conclusions*)

Vocabulary

Write these words on the chalkboard. Then write the sentences below. Have children copy each sentence and insert the correct word from the list.

fluttered coop vane pluck staggered

- The bird _____ its wings as it prepared to fly.
- The chickens all sleep in the _____.
- The weather _____ on the roof points to the direction the wind blows.
- The boy who stood up to the bully had a lot of _____.
- The runner was so tired that he _____ to the finish line.

CROSS-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Science: Different Kinds of Chickens

Tell children that there are many different kinds of chickens. Have them work in small groups to learn about one kind of chicken. Ask them to find out where the chicken breed they have chosen is from and what it looks like. Children can report on what they learn to the rest of the class.

Math: Sun Numbers

The sun is very important to Elvis. Children can do research to learn about the sun. Ask them to find out about these sun numbers:

- How far away from Earth is the sun?
- How big is the sun?
- How heavy is the sun?
- How hot is the sun?

Science: Tracking the Sunrise

Point out to children that the sun does not rise at the same time every day. Have them look in the newspaper to find out exactly when the sun rose and set the day before. Then ask them to track the time of sunrise and sunset each day for a week. Write the times on the chalkboard as children report them. At the end of the week, discuss what has changed about the time of sunrise and the time of sunset over the week.

Health: The Heimlich Maneuver

At the end of the story, Elvis almost chokes on a bug again, and Daniela performs a procedure called the Heimlich Maneuver on him. Have children find out how the Heimlich Maneuver is done and write a brief description of the procedure and how it works.

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.

Cock-a-doodle-doo in Other Languages

Have children use the keywords *rooster sounds in other languages* to find out what roosters say in various languages. Encourage children to write down two or three versions of *cock-a-doodle-doo* and read them to the rest of the class.