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Activity Guide

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Henry and Mudge Get the Cold Shivers

ABOUT THE STORY

Henry knows what to do when he is sick, but what about when his dog, Mudge, doesn't feel well? Mudge is too tired to play, so Henry and his mother take him to the vet. Henry is very worried, but what he learns at the vet's both surprises and reassures him.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Cynthia Rylant has written many other books about Henry and Mudge, including *Henry and Mudge in Puddle Trouble* and *Henry and Mudge and the Long Weekend*, both Live Oak Readalongs. Her books have won dozens of awards; in 1993, she received the Newbery Award for her novel *Missing May*. She has always loved big, drooly dogs, just like Mudge, and lives with two of them in her house in Eugene, Oregon.

ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

Sucie Stevenson knows all about Mudge-like dogs, too – she has two of her own. She has illustrated all the other Henry and Mudge tales.

INTRODUCING THE STORY

Ask children if they have ever had a pet get sick. After they have shared their experiences, tell them that this book is about a boy who must take his sick dog to the veterinarian.

READING ACTIVITIES

Comprehension/Thinking Skills

- “What do Henry and Mudge do on Henry's sick days?”
- “How does Henry know that Mudge is sick?”
- “How does Mudge feel about the vet?”
- “What does Mudge do at the vet's?”
- “What is wrong with Mudge?”
- “How are Mudge's sick days different from Henry's sick days?”

(Compare and Contrast)

g. “How do you think Henry feels when he learns what is wrong with Mudge?” (Make inferences)

h. “Were you surprised to learn what was wrong with Mudge?” Explain your answer. (Express opinions)

Vocabulary

Write these lists of words on the chalkboard. Ask volunteers to draw lines matching each word from the story with its meaning.

fever	tense
cough	lose hair
germ	high body temperature
nervous	something that causes sickness
shed	pills or liquid to fight sickness
medicine	to force air from the lungs loudly

CROSS-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Art: Do You Have a Cold?

Have children brainstorm a list of cold symptoms, such as sneezing and coughing, and ways to help prevent colds, such as washing hands and using tissues. Children can work in small groups to create posters that tell how to recognize and prevent colds.

Science: Veterinary Training

Have books on veterinarians available to children to use. Have them work in small groups to write a step-by-step description of how to become a vet, including schooling and training.

Language Arts: Mudge's Story

Ask children to consider how Mudge might have felt about getting sick and going to the vet. Would he be scared, angry, excited, or sad? Children can rewrite a portion or the entire story from Mudge's point of view, telling his side of the story.

Health: Pet Needs

Point out to children that each kind of pet needs special care and food to stay healthy. Have each child choose a kind of pet to learn about. They can choose a pet they actually have, or one they might like to have. Children can describe the care pet need to stay healthy.

INTERNET ACTIVITY

Before you send children to do research using any of the keywords listed below, you should try them yourself to be sure the sites are suitable.

Pet Fun

Have children make a list of questions about taking care of pets and then search for answers by using the keywords *pet care*.