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# Activity Guide

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## A Rainbow of My Own

### ABOUT THE STORY

A young boy imagines that a beautiful rainbow befriends him, and then discovers a wonderful surprise in his bedroom when he returns home from his afternoon adventures.

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR/ILLUSTRATOR

Don Freeman was born in San Diego, California on August 11, 1908. A graduate of Principia High School in St. Louis, Missouri, Freeman later studied art under Joan Sloan and Harry Wickey at the Art Students League in New York City before returning to the west coast to settle down and create his prolific collection of endearing picture books. Mr. Freeman passed away in 1978.

### INTRODUCING THE STORY

Ask children if any of them currently have or ever had an imaginary friend. What kinds of things do they do together? Explain that in this story, a young boy imagines that a beautiful rainbow is his playmate.

### READING ACTIVITIES

#### *Comprehension/Thinking Skills*

1. What were some of the games the boy and rainbow played? (hopping, leaping, climbing, sliding, hide-and-go-seek, swinging)
2. What does the boy imagine a rainbow would sound like? ("soft whirring sound like the wings of a bird")
3. What does the boy wear when he plays with the rainbow? (yellow raincoat and hat)
4. What made the rainbow in the boy's room? (light refracting through his fish bowl)

#### *Vocabulary*

Be sure students have an understanding of the following terms. Depending on age, simply discuss the terms, or have children look them up in a dictionary.

beautiful, whirring, peacock fan, hammock

### CROSS-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

#### *Language Arts: Say the Syllables!*

Write the following words on the board and have the children determine which ones are one-, two-, and three-syllable words:

rainbow, I'll, following, suddenly, hat, beautiful, other, know, whirring, wasn't, outdoors, disappeared, pretend, flower, count, hide

#### *Language Arts: Verb Hunt*

Remind children that verbs are words that depict action in a story. Reread the story and list as many verbs as they can find.

#### *Science: Make a Rainbow*

Divide class into small groups. Give each group a variety of prisms and allow them to experiment with light from the window and/or flashlights. What happens when light shines through the glass? Note any special patterns or designs.

#### *Arts: All the Colors of the Rainbow*

Discuss the colors found in rainbows. Share the ROY G. BIV memory game with children to help them recall the colors and order of appearance (red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo, and violet). Have children color their own rainbow. Display around the classroom.

### 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.

#### *Research rainbows:*

Look for information on why they appear, what weather conditions must be present for them to exist, where they have been seen, history of rainbows in literature, etc. Use information to create final reports or projects.

#### *Research Don Freeman:*

Look for additional information on this remarkable author. What other books did he write? How did he get his ideas for the books?