



www.liveoakmedia.com

# Activity Guide

800-788-1121

## Ask Mr. Bear

Live Oak Readalongs are protected by copyright. The components in Live Oak Readalongs may not be reproduced in any form by any means without prior written permission.

### ABOUT THE STORY

A young boy doesn't know what to give his mother for her birthday. He meets various animals—a hen, a goose, a sheep, and a cow – and asks each of them for a present for his mother. But she already has every present they can give. Finally, he asks Mr. Bear for a present. Mr. Bear suggests one the boy can give her himself, one she doesn't already have – a bear hug.

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR/ILLUSTRATOR

The late Marjorie Flack was a prolific author and illustrator whose work has proved enduringly popular with children. Another favorite title by this talented writer is *The Story About Ping* (also available as a Live Oak Readalong).

### INTRODUCING THE STORY

Ask the group to name some gifts they might give their mothers for their birthdays. Is it hard thinking of just the right present? Ask them if they think their mothers would like to receive something they already have, or if they would prefer something new and different. Introduce the story as the tale of a young boy who seeks the help of various animals in choosing a gift for his mother.

### READING ACTIVITIES

#### Comprehension/Thinking Skills

- “Why did the hen offer to give an egg? The sheep, wool? The cow, milk and cream?”
- “Why didn't the boy like any of the animals' ideas?”
- “What is a bear hug? How is it different from an ordinary hug?”  
(Compare and Contrast)
- “Why was the bear's idea the best one of all? How was it different from the other ideas?” (Analyze)

### Vocabulary

Write the words in the box on the chalkboard, and write the sentences below. Have the children copy the sentences, filling in each blank with a word from the box.

- You feel excited on the \_\_\_\_\_ of your birthday.
- Birds' \_\_\_\_\_ help them fly.
- John baked the cake by \_\_\_\_\_.
- The girl pulled the \_\_\_\_\_ up to her chin.
- There were daffodils \_\_\_\_\_ the road.
- There was \_\_\_\_\_ we could do to help.

### CROSS-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

#### Science: Match the Sounds

Write the following list of animals and sounds on the board. Ask volunteers to draw a line from the sound in the first column to the animal in the second column. Which animal and sound are not in the story?

moo, moo	goose
baa, baa	cow
cluck, cluck	pig
oink, oink	sheep
maa, maa	hen
honk, honk	bear
hum, hum	goat

#### Drama: Acting out the Animals

Each animal in the book makes a sound and moves in a particular way. Ask children to choose an animal to imitate. They can perform the movements and sounds of the animal of their choice for the rest of the group, who can then try to guess which animal it is.

#### Art: Greeting Cards

Tell children that a homemade greeting card is a very special gift. Have each child make a greeting card for a friend or family member whose birthday or special day (Mother's Day, for example) is near. Encourage them to illustrate their cards and write special messages on them.

#### Language Arts: Why I Love You

Just as a hug is a physical expression of love, so children can write their feelings of affection in a letter to a family member or friend. Have them write a brief letter titled “Why I Love (or Like) You.” Children can give their letters to their family members or friends.

### 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.

#### Farm Animals

Children can find out about farm animals on the Internet by using either the specific animal's name as a keyword or by looking up farm animals. Ask them to write down two facts about the animal they research and report on it to the class.