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Activity Guide

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A House Is A House For Me

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ABOUT THE STORY

That a nest is a house for birds is obvious, but how many children would consider a throat a home for a hum or a book a home for a story? It is this concept that is present in an exuberant poem and detailed illustrations.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Mary Ann Hoberman, a Connecticut native who graduated from Smith College, has written more than a dozen books of poetry for children. She and her husband, an architect, live in Connecticut with their four children.

ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

A graduate of the Rhode Island School of Design, Betty Fraser grew up in Massachusetts and now lives in New York for children.

INTRODUCING THE STORY

Ask one of the group where he or she lives. After eliciting "house" or "apartment" as an answer, ask where a bird, a bee, and a spider live. Explain that their shelters are houses, too, and that the book the group is about to read will look at houses for a large number of animals and things.

READING ACTIVITIES

Comprehension/Thinking Skills

- "What lives in a coop?"
- "What lives in a hutch?"
- "What lives in a pod?"
- "What lives in a mirror?"
- "Which of the 'houses' did you find most surprising?" (*Make judgments*)
- "What might live in a cave?" (*Draw conclusions*)

Vocabulary

These words might be unfamiliar to the group. Define each word, and ask volunteers to use the words in sentences.

sow	husk
fold	duchess
pod	sty
dwelling	hangar

CROSS-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Social Studies: Native American Houses

The book mentions houses for Native American groups, the Cree, the Hopi, the Eskimo, and the Inuit. Ask children to choose one of the groups to research. Provide encyclopedias and other references material, and have them find out about the kinds of houses these groups used. Children can report on the information they find.

Drama: Choral Reading

Children may enjoy reading the poem aloud. Choose one child to read each verse, and ask the whole group to read the chorus, "And a house is a hose for me!" Give children time to rehearse, and then have a whole-group reading. If possible, record the reading so children can listen to it later.

Language Arts: Words Categories

Duplicate and distribute the following list of words to the class. Explain that in each row of three words, one of the words does not belong. Ask children to circle the word that is different from the other two.

plane	car	rug
river	lion	lamb
knee	book	head
boot	glove	teabag

Art: My House Is My House

Ask children to draw a picture of their own home. If they prefer, they can draw a picture of their bedroom. Below their picture, children can write a description of their house beginning, "My house is..." and using vivid adjectives to describe their homes.

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.

Animal Homes

Ask children to think of an animal that is not in the book. They can use the animal's name as a keyword to look on the Internet to find out what kind of home the animal has. Encourage them to print out an illustration of the animal's home and then show their pictures and describe the homes to the rest of the group.