



EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

The Country Mouse and the City Mouse

Storybook Theatre encourages everyone to get the most out of each program performed. The following extension activities are for use after viewing Storybook Theatre's production of Country Mouse/City Mouse. They are easily adaptable to either primary or intermediate level students and can be done in a large class, small groups, or by individuals. Primary could be more illustrations, simple sentences, and done in large groups, whereas intermediate students could focus more on writing and independent work. Enjoy!

1. Pattern Books of Facts

Make a simple outline pattern of a mouse. Have students trace the pattern on construction paper, cut out two of them, and add details to one piece to make it the front of the mouse and then add a tail to the other piece so it is the back. Then cut several pieces of plain white paper (or lined paper) in the same shape. Staple the white pages in between the two construction paper pieces. Now the students have a book in the shape of a mouse. Research facts about mouse and write a fact on each page, illustrating if desired.

Option: Make a large shape book to use as a class book.

2. Letter Writing

Have a lesson the proper way to write a friendly letter and how to address an envelope. Assign each student another student in the class to write a friendly letter to, and provide that student's address. The letter writer will then address the envelope and either give it to that student (after you have proofread the letter). You might want to provide a "mailbox" to put it in and have someone deliver the letters, or you may want them to actually mail the letters.

3. Penpals

Extend your letter writing lesson by providing students with penpal names and addresses. It might be from a state/country you are studying in Social Studies, or you might want to hook up with a teacher at another school and write to the students in that class.

4. Other Versions

Read other versions of this story and compare/contrast them.

Town Mouse and Country Mouse by Jan Brett

Town Mouse and Country Mouse by Paul Galdone

I'll Meet you at the Cucumbers by Lilian Moore

The City Mouse and the Country Mouse by Aesop

5. Bugs

The country mouse liked to eat bugs. Research what type of insects a mouse would like to eat. Are there any insects that humans eat?

6. Follow that Milk

In the play, the country mouse got her milk from a cow, but the city mouse got her milk from the store. Discuss the process of getting the milk from the cow to the store.

Students may wish to illustrate each part of the step and connect them with arrows (the last picture being a glass of milk). Three good sites to visit for this information are:

<http://members.aol.com/kitecd/dryfood.htm>

<http://www.ktca.org/newtons/11/dairyfrm.html>

<http://www.moomilk.com/faq.htm>

7. Homesick

In the play, the country mouse gets homesick (butterflies in the tummy). Have a class discussion or write in journals about a time when students felt homesick. Brainstorm ideas to help someone who is homesick.

8. City or Country?

Make a City poster and a Country poster. On each make a column for advantages and another for disadvantages. (like/dislike) Have the class list advantages and disadvantages for both the city and the country. Students can follow up with a writing about which one he/she prefers and why. Older students may wish to have a debate.

9. Aesop's Fables

Read several of Aesop's fables. Discuss what characteristics make a fable (short, usually animals for characters, teaches a moral or lesson) Have the students write their own fable and include a moral.

10. Map It

On a large sheet of paper, have the students illustrate the left side with a country scene and the right side with a city scene. Connect the two scene with a road, and then fill in along the way with other illustrations that would transition the two scenes. For example, have fewer and fewer trees and more and more buildings.

**TEKS Correlations for
Country Mouse / City Mouse Extension Activities**

Activity #	The student is expected to	Kind	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	5 th	6 th
1 – Pattern book of facts	Use print, pictures, and people to gather information	ELA 12 B	ELA 15 B					
	Use multiple sources to locate information			ELA 12D	ELA 12D	ELA 13C	ELA 13C	ELA 13C
2 – letter writing	Write/choose correct form for writing a letter		ELA 18F	ELA 14D	ELA 14D	ELA 15F	ELA 15F	ELA 15F
3 - Penpals	Write/choose correct form for writing a letter		ELA 18F	ELA 14D	ELA 14D	ELA 15F	ELA 15F	ELA 15F
4 – other versions	Identify similarities and differences across texts – topics, problems, characters, themes		ELA 12G	ELA 9G	ELA 9G			
	Find similarities and differences across texts – treatment, scope, organization					ELA 10I	ELA 10I	ELA 10I
5 – bug research	Identify characteristics of living organisms	SCI 9	SCI 9A	SCI 9	SCI 8,9,10	SCI 8,9	SCI 9,10	
6 – follow that milk	Obtain information about topic from variety of sources	SS 17B	SS 15B	SS 17B	SS 16A			
7 – journal writing - homesick	Respond to stories through art/writing in a way that reflects understanding	ELA 10C	ELA 13C	ELA 10A	ELA 10A			
	Interpret text ideas through journal writing					ELA 11B	ELA 11B	ELA 11B
8 – adv/disadv. of country vs city	Use own knowledge to make sense of text	ELA 9A	ELA 12A	ELA 9A	ELA 9A	ELA 10A	ELA 10A	ELA 10A
9 – write own fable & moral	Write to entertain		ELA 18F	ELA 14D	ELA 14D	ELA 15D	ELA 15D	ELA 15D
10 – map it	Draw/describe/discuss mental images that text based on text descriptions		ELA 12E	ELA 9E	ELA 9E	ELA 10D	ELA 10D	ELA 10D

