

CURIOUS GEORGE RIDES A BIKE

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By H.A. Reyby (Houghton Mifflin)

Themes: Curiosity/Responsibility

Grade Level: K-2

Running Time: 10 minutes, iconographic

SUMMARY

CURIOUS GEORGE RIDES A BIKE, the film, is true to the book, CURIOUS GEORGE RIDES A BIKE, by H.A. Rey. The film concerns the adventures of a curious little monkey named George. George is given a bicycle as a gift from his owner, who is referred to as the man with the yellow hat. George rides the bicycle, and, as he is a curious little monkey, is easily distracted by all that he sees around him. When he passes by a newspaper delivery boy, he agrees to help deliver the papers. However, he spots a river in the distance and, in the wink of an eye, is making boats with the newspapers to float down the river.

At one point in the film, George is so distracted that he does not watch where he is going, falls and bends the wheel of the bicycle. When he rides on the remaining wheel, two men who own an animal show, discover him. The men think this is a wonderful trick indeed and decide to include George in the show. After a series of adventures on the animal show grounds, George becomes the show's star performer.

The end of the film finds George riding happily and safely home in the car with his owner, the man with the yellow hat.

OBJECTIVES

- Children will learn about responsibility.
- Children will explore the ways curiosity can lead to discovery
- Children will investigate the world of imagination.

BEFORE VIEWING ACTIVITIES

Talk with children about special gifts they may have received. Ask:

- What was this special gift?
- Why was it so special to you?
- What kinds of things did you do with your special gift?
- How did you feel when you were given this gift?

Explain that in the story the children are about to hear, a curious little monkey named George receives a special gift from his owner. Encourage children to think about the different ways George enjoys his gift as they watch the film.

Share the book CURIOUS GEORGE RIDES A BIKE with children. Ask:

- How do you think George feels when he receives the bicycle from the man with the yellow hat?
- Is George acting responsibly when he helps the boy deliver newspapers? Why? Why not?
- Why does George hit the rock with his bicycle?
- What does George do what he shouldn't on the animal show grounds?
- How do you think George feels at the end of the story as he goes home with the man with the yellow hat?

AFTER VIEWING ACTIVITIES

Have children recall the portion of the video where George is making paper boats to sail down the river. Then supply newspaper that children can use to make their own paper boats. (on page 18 of the book, CURIOUS GEORGE RIDES A BIKE, there are directions.) When children have finished, have them write or dictate to you, simple stories about where their boat is traveling to and the things that people in the boats see along the way.

Discuss the imaginative way George uses his bag in the video in order to rescue the bear. Ask:

- How does George help the bear?
- How do you think George feels after rescuing the bear?
- How do the bear and the animal show workers feel?

Emphasize that George was very clever in thinking about a way to rescue the bear.

Provide a paper bag and sheet of craft paper for each child in the group. Staple the bag to the upper left-hand corner of the craft paper. Remind children that George used his bag in a very imaginative and clever way. Then have children think about the different ways they might use their bags.

Have children write their suggestions for using the bag on the craft paper, or print children's suggestions as they dictate them to you. (Children may want to decorate their bags or add illustrations to the craft paper when finished.) Later, display these on a classroom bulletin board.

Talk with children about the ways George's curiosity led him to discover many new things. Then take a walk outdoors with children. Collect objects such as pine cones, acorns, flowers, leaves, etc. When you return to the classroom, encourage children to think about things that they might want to know about these objects. Then ask:

- Where do they come from?
- How are they formed?
- Why are they a certain color, shape, size?
- Where else are they found?

Visit your school library or provide reference books, magnifying glasses and other items children might need to investigate the objects and answer the questions. As children work, help them recognize that as they are asking questions and searching for answers, they are learning.

Other videos and films about curiosity & discovery available from Weston Woods include:

CAPS FOR SALE by Esphyr Slobodkina
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