



www.liveoakmedia.com

Activity Guide

800-788-1121

Sheila Rae, The Brave

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 from Live Oak Media.

ABOUT THE STORY

Sheila Rae believes that she is not afraid of anything. She steps on cracks, walks backward with her eyes closed, and teases her sister for her fears. But when Sheila Rae gets lost one day, she discovers maybe, just maybe, she isn't quite as brave as she thought she was.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR/ILLUSTRATOR

Kevin Henkes lives with his wife and son in Madison, Wisconsin. He is the acclaimed author and illustrator of *Chrysanthemum*, an ALA Notable Book, *Owen*, a Caldecott Honor Book, and *Wemberly Worried* and *Lilly's Purple Plastic Purse*, both Live Oak Readalongs.

INTRODUCING THE STORY

Ask children if they have ever been lost. Have volunteers describe how the experience made them feel. Then tell them that the book they will read is about a little mouse who is sure she is brave — until she gets lost.

READING ACTIVITIES

Comprehension/Thinking Skills

- "Name two things that Sheila Rae is not afraid of."
- "What makes Sheila Rae afraid?"
- "What does Sheila Rae imagine when she is lost?"
- "What happens when Sheila Rae calls Louise's name?"
- "What does Sheila Rae tell Louise when they get home?"
- "How are Sheila Rae and Louise similar? How are they different?"
(*Compare and contrast*)
- "Do you think there might be something Louise is afraid of? Explain."
(*Make predictions*)

Vocabulary

bared, creatures, familiar, convince, stray, lightning

Write these words on the chalkboard. Help children to find definitions for each word using a dictionary. Then ask the children to write a letter to Sheila Rae about her adventure, using at least two of the words from the list.

CROSS-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Language Arts: Describe Your Fear

Everyone is afraid of something, Sheila Rae finds out. Ask children to write a description of something they fear. Encourage them to make their descriptions as vivid as possible. Volunteers can share their descriptions with the rest of the class. Allow children who prefer to keep their descriptions private to do so.

Science: Storm Safety

Sheila Rae isn't afraid of thunder and lightning, but lightning storms can be very dangerous. Ask children to work in groups to find some safety rules for behavior in storms. Groups can work to make posters of rules for storm safety.

Language Arts: Siblings Help

Ask children to think of a time when a brother or sister gave them help, as Louise did to Sheila Rae. If children have no siblings, then ask them to imagine such a time. They can write a description of what happened, explaining how their brother or sister aided them and how that help affected their relationship.

Social Studies: Real Bravery

Ask children to think about people from history whom they consider brave. Each child can choose one historical figure to research. Have them write a brief biographical sketch telling about their subject's bravest moment.

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.

Tales of Courage

Have children use the keywords "children's stories of courage" to find stories of courage on the Internet. Children can copy or print out the story they like best to share with the rest of the class.