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# Activity Guide

800-788-1121

## Horace and Morris But Mostly Dolores

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### ABOUT THE STORY

Horace, Morris, and Dolores are all mice who love having adventures together. Then one day, Horace and Morris decide they should not be playing with a girl, so they start a boys-only club. Dolores starts her own girls-only club. After a while, though, Dolores gets bored with her club. Finding a new friend who wants adventure, she goes to the boys' clubhouse and convinces the boys that girls and boys can have fun adventuring together.

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

James Howe didn't think about becoming an author until one night when he was watching vampire movies on television and got the idea for *Bunnacula*, a bunny vampire. He published *Bunnacula* in 1979, and since then he has been writing books for young people. He lives in Yonkers, New York.

### ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

Amy Walrod got her bachelor of fine arts degree in illustration from the Rhode Island School of Design. She lives in Cambridge, Massachusetts. *Horace and Morris but Mostly Dolores* is her first picture book.

### INTRODUCING THE STORY

Ask children if they have ever been part of a boys-only or girls-only group. Discuss whether the activities were more fun with only one gender involved. Then tell them that the story they will read is about a trio of friends who decide that boys and girls cannot be friends.

### READING ACTIVITIES

#### **Comprehension/Thinking Skills**

- Why did Horace and Morris stop playing with Dolores?
- What did Dolores do when Horace and Morris started their own club?
- Was Dolores happy with her club? Why or why not? (*Drawing Conclusions*)
- What did Dolores decide to do at last?
- Why do you think the boys went along with Dolores's idea? (*Making Inferences*)

### Vocabulary

Write these words on the chalkboard. Have children identify which words are nouns, verbs, and adjectives. Then ask them to work in pairs to look up each word in a dictionary and write a definition. Pairs can write sentences using each word.

figured  
introduced

adventure  
downhearted

announced  
decisions

### CROSS-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

#### **Social Studies: The Real Mt. Ever-Rust**

Horace, Morris, and Dolores climb Mt. Ever-Rust, but humans climb Mt. Everest, in the Himalayan Mountains. Have children work in small groups to find out about Mt. Everest: where it is located, its height, and stories of people who have climbed it. Groups can present the information they find to the class in the form of oral stories of climbs, salt-water-flour topographical maps of the mountain, or photographs and drawings of Mt. Everest.

#### **Science: Mice of the World**

There are many kinds of mice in the world, from field mice to dormice to the African climbing mouse. Have children work with partners to learn about the habits and habitat of one mouse species. Pairs can present a short report about the type of mouse they have investigated.

#### **Health: All About Cheese**

Dolores's club does many activities with cheese, including Muenster, Mozzarella, and Roquefort. Have children work in groups to learn about how cheese is made. They can focus on one particular kind of cheese. Provide samples of the different kinds of cheese for the class to taste and compare as groups give their reports on the cheese.

#### **Language Arts: Left Out**

Most children will be familiar with the experience Dolores has of being left out or excluded from a group. Have them use their own experience to write a letter from Dolores to Horace and Morris. In the letter, they can explain how being excluded feels. Encourage them to write as Dolores to tell the boys why they should not exclude her from their group.

### 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.

#### **Recipes for Mice**

Encourage children to use the keywords *cheese recipes* to find recipes on the Internet that a mouse would like. When they find a good recipe, they can copy it down. Collect the recipes together in a book of Cheese Dishes for Mice that the class can use.