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Activity Guide

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Henry and Mudge in the Green Time

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ABOUT THE STORY

On summer days, there are lots of things that Henry and his big dog Mudge like to do. They go on picnics - but they get stung by bees. Henry gives Mudge a bath - and gets as wet as the dog. They go up the hill and play knights and dragons- and fall asleep in the green summer grass.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Cynthia Rylant has written many other books about Henry and Mudge, including *Henry and Mudge in Puddle Trouble* and *Henry and Mudge and the Long Weekend*, both Live Oak Readalongs. Her books have won dozens of awards; in 1993, she received the Newbery Award for her novel *Missing May*. She has always loved big, drooly dogs, just like Mudge, and lives with two of them in her house in Eugene, Oregon.

ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

Sucie Stevenson knows all about Mudge-like dogs, too – she has two of her own. She has illustrated all the other Henry and Mudge tales.

INTRODUCING THE STORY

Ask children what they like to do in the summertime. List their answers on the chalkboard on a Summer Fun list. Then tell them that this book is about a boy and his dog that have lots of summer fun.

READING ACTIVITIES

Comprehension/Thinking Skills

- “What does Mudge eat for dessert on the picnic?”
- “Why does Henry cry? What does Mudge do when he cries?”
- “How does Mudge feel about baths?”
- “Why does Henry feel big on the hill?” (*Draw conclusions*)
- “How do Henry and Mudge feel about each other? How can you tell?” (*Make inferences*)
- “What is the ‘green time’? Why does it have that name?” (*Analyze*)

Vocabulary

Ask children to write these words in alphabetical order. Then have volunteers give a definition for each word and use the word in a sentence

picnic sandwich walrus dragon monsters

CROSS-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Science: Bees and More Bees?

Have children work in small groups to find out something about bees like the one that stung Henry. Groups can focus on what bees eat, where they live, how they make honey, and how they defend themselves. Groups can report on what they learn to the class

Art: Your Green Time

Have children think about what the phrase “green time” means to them. They can draw a picture showing their green time. Display the pictures in a group Green Time Gallery.

Social Studies: Knights and Castles

Provide children with information about knights of the Middle Ages. In groups, children can find out about knights’ armor, castles, training, and daily lives. Have the groups present reports on what they learn.

Science: Taking Care of Pets

Henry gives Mudge a bath, which is one part of taking care of a dog. Have children look at information on taking care of dogs and other pets. If possible take the group to a local SPCA or have a volunteer come in to give a talk for the class. Students can create posters about pet care from what they learn.

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.

Caring for Your Dog

Have children learn about and report on taking care of a dog by using the keywords *dog care* or *pet care*.