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Activity Guide

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Henry and Mudge Under the Yellow Moon

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ABOUT THE STORY

Henry and his big dog Mudge love everything about the fall, especially Halloween. Henry even finds that he likes scary ghost stories- as long as he has Mudge to keep him company. Henry is afraid, though, that when Aunt Sally comes for Thanksgiving, she and Mudge won't get along. How Aunt Sally reacts to Mudge is a great surprise to Henry, and he finds that even thanksgiving with Aunt Sally can be fun.

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 Get the Cold Shivers*, 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 think of when they think about fall. Discuss their favorite fall activities and holidays. Explain that this book is about a boy, his dog, and what they do in the fall.

READING ACTIVITIES

Comprehension/Thinking Skills

- “What do Henry and Mudge like most about the fall?”
- “What does Henry dislike about Halloween?”
- “What does Mudge do during the ghost story?”
- “How does Mudge’s fear make Henry feel?” (*Make inferences*)
- “What does Aunt Sally think about Mudge?” (*Draw conclusions*)
- “What sort of person does Aunt Sally turn out to be?” (*Make judgments*)

Vocabulary

Write these sentences on the chalkboard. Have the children complete each sentence with a word from the list.

jack-o’ lanterns ghost
candles manners

- Aunt Sally likes Mudge’s good _____.
- Henry loved to make _____.
- Henry’s mother lit _____ at Halloween.
- Henry’s mother told _____ stories.

CROSS-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Art: Halloween Bats

Just as Henry did, the group can make paper bats for Halloween. Provide them with black construction paper and scissors. When they have cut out bat shapes, hang the bats with string from the center so the wings can flap.

Science: Autumn Leaves

If the season is fall, children can collect and label autumn leaves for a class leaf book. If it is not fall, children can draw, color and label their own autumn leaves, using a book with pictures of trees and leaves as a guide.

Social Studies: The First Thanksgiving

Work with children to find out about what the Pilgrims ate at the first Thanksgiving. Compare the Pilgrims’ feast with the items children eat today.

Language Arts: Oral Storytelling

Ask volunteers to tell their own ghost stories. Seat children in a circle and, if possible, turn the lights low for a spooky effect. Encourage storytellers to make their oral deliveries as scary as possible.

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.

Insects in the fall

Children can learn about and report on the insect’s fall behavior by using the keywords *insects* or *insect behavior*.