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Activity Guide

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Madeline and the Bad Hat

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ABOUT THE STORY

When the Spanish Ambassador moves in next door to Miss Clavel's school, Madeline and her classmates are thrilled to learn that the Ambassador has a young son. Pepito's behavior, however, is less than diplomatic and earns him the reputation of a "bad hat". When one of his pranks backfires, Pepito experiences an epiphany that redeems his reputation.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR/ILLUSTRATOR

Ludwig Bemelmans is probably best known for his lovable character Madeline. Born in Austria and raised in Germany, Bemelmans later immigrated to the United States. *Madeline's Rescue*, Bemelmans' second book in the Madeline series and a Live Oak Media, was awarded the Caldecott Medal in 1953.

INTRODUCING THE STORY

Ask the children if they know any kids who do mischievous things to get attention. What do they do? Why do you think they get in trouble? Explain that in this story, young Pepito is full of mischief and isn't very nice until Madeline and her friends help him learn how to behave.

READING ACTIVITIES

Language Arts - Vocabulary/Dictionary Skills

Several words in this story may be difficult for children to understand. Depending on ability level, use a dictionary to look up the following terms, and/or spend time discussing their definitions.

bliss	menagerie	hedgehog	Ambassador	guillotine
bulging	disaster	barbarian	vegetarian	Spanish

Locate each word in the story and have the children read the sentence it is in. Then have children make up their own original sentences.

Language Arts - Sequencing

Using a chalkboard or dry erase board, have the children read the following sentences from the story and then put them in chronological order. Use the story to verify sequence after completion.

1. Pepito let a cat out of a bag.
2. Madeline told Pepito, "You are the world's most wonderful boy!"
3. The Spanish Ambassador moved into the house next door.
4. "I've learned my lesson," said Pepito, and he freed his caged animals.
5. Miss Clavel and her students gave Pepito a set of tools.

Social Studies/Language Arts - Cultures/Letter writing skills

Make arrangements for the children to be pen pals with children from another country. Use the opportunity to have them learn as much as possible about the foreign land. After several letters have been exchanged, celebrate their new knowledge by having a festival. Eat foods indigenous to their pen pals' country, dress in the style of the pen pals, and play music from the other country.

CROSS-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Science - Animal welfare

In the story, Pepito traps a helpless cat in a bag and turns it loose for a pack of dogs to attack. Ask the children how they think the cat must have felt being carried around in that bag and when he was turned loose to face a huge group of canines. Is it okay to do things like this to animals? Encourage empathy for animals.

Geography - Where in the world is Spain?

Pepito is the son of the Spanish Ambassador to France. Using a map or globe, identify Spain. Give children individual maps and have them color the country and label. Look up the capital of Spain and label that, too.

History - What does an ambassador do?

Bring the children to the library media center and research a typical job description for an ambassador. Talk about why countries need to send ambassadors to other countries. Does the United States have ambassadors in other countries?

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.

Use the Internet to locate information the about various topics from this story, such as, animal welfare, or boarding schools. Use the information found to compile a report or other project (diorama, poster, clay model, etc.)