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Activity Guide

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Diary of a Worm

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ABOUT THE STORY

In this imaginative book, the author imagines what it is like to be a worm, with daily entries in a diary that tell readers what a worm does and what a worm thinks about.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Doreen Cronin grew up in Queens, New York, and became an attorney. She gave up law to become a children's book writer whose picture books have won many awards. She lives in New York City.

ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

Harry Bliss studied painting and illustration at the University of the Arts and Syracuse University. He is a cartoonist whose work for the New Yorker has won him a huge following. He has also illustrated *A Fine, Fine School* by Sharon Creech, another Live Oak Readalong. Mr. Bliss lives in Vermont.

INTRODUCING THE STORY

Ask children what they know about worms. Write their responses on the chalkboard. Then tell them that the book they will read is the diary of a worm, with some made-up information and some real facts about worms.

READING ACTIVITIES

Comprehension/Thinking Skills

"Who is the worm's close friend?"

"What happened on April 4?"

"What happened to the worm in school on April 15?"

"What are some dangers worms face?"

"How does the worm feel about the earth?" (Draw conclusions)

"How are the worm and the spider different?" (Compare and contrast)

Vocabulary

Write these divided compound words on the chalkboard. Have children match words in each list to make compound words from the story. Then ask them to use each compound word in a sentence of their own.

upside
hop
side
home
neck

lace
work
down
scotch
walk

CROSS-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Science: Worms and the Earth

The worm writes that the earth gives him everything he needs. Earthworms also help the earth. Have children work in small groups to find out what earthworms get from the earth, and what they give to the earth in return. Groups can compose short reports on the information they find and read them to the class.

Language Arts: Diary of Another Animal

Have children choose another animal and write several diary entries from the animal's point of view. As in *Diary of a Worm*, children can include some true facts and some made-up information. Encourage volunteers to read their diaries to the class.

Math: Worm Lengths

Worms come in all different lengths. Have children work in pairs to find out the average length of one kind of worm. Create a chart like the one below on which pairs can record their findings.

Kind of Worm	Average Length
Earthworm	
Tapeworm	
Silkworm	
Ribbon worm	

Art: Macaroni Necklace

Children can make macaroni necklaces as the worm does. Provide them with different kinds of pasta in several shapes. Children can string pasta to create necklaces. If they want, they can paint the pasta or use glitter to decorate it before they string it.

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.

Kinds of Worms

Have children work in pairs to find information about one kind of worm on the Internet. They can use the keywords *kinds of worms* to look for information. Ask them to write down three facts about the kind of worm they have chosen and to present their facts to the class. If possible, have them print out a picture of their worm to show to the class..