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Activity Guide

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Ira Sleeps Over

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ABOUT THE STORY

Ira is invited to sleep at a friend's house for the first time. He must decide between taking his teddy bear along and risking his friend's derision or leaving the bear home and sleeping without his constant bedtime companion.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR/ ILLUSTRATOR

A Philadelphia native, Bernard Waber started out studying for a career in finance. He gave that up for a degree in art and has been writing and illustrating books for children ever since. He is the author of the Lyle Crocodile books and of *Ira Says Goodbye*, another Live Oak Readalong.

INTRODUCING THE STORY

Ask children if any of them have a favorite stuffed animal. Have volunteers describe how they feel if they had to go somewhere without their stuffed friend. Then explain that the book they will read is about a boy who feels he has to go on a sleepover without his teddy bear.

READING ACTIVITIES

Comprehension/Thinking Skills

- "Why did Ira leave his teddy bear at home when he went to Reggie's?"
- "What did Ira's parents advise him to do with his bear?"
- "What did Ira's sister advise him to do?"
- "Should Ira have worried about Reggie laughing at him? Why or why not?" (Analyze)
- "How do you think Ira felt when Reggie got his teddy bear?" (Analyze)

Vocabulary

Write these columns of words on the chalkboard. Each word in one column can be combined with a word in the other column to make a compound word from the story. Have children copy the words and draw lines to match the words. Then ask them to use each compound word in a sentence.

no	bell
flash	out
bed	body
with	time
door	light

CROSS-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Language Art: Ghost Stories

Reggie tells part of a ghost story to Ira. Have children work together to tell their own ghost story. One child can begin the story, telling about a paragraph's worth. Then the next child can continue the story. Go on until all the children have had a chance to contribute.

Science: Magnifying Glasses

Reggie shows Ira his magnifying glass, which makes objects look much larger. Provide children with magnifying glasses so they can see objects magnified. Allow them to experiment with different objects and to describe what they see.

Art: Rubber Stamp Collages

Ira and Reggie play Office with Reggie's Rubber stamps. Point out to children that they can also use stamps to create artwork. Provide them with a variety of stamps and ink colors, allow them to create rubber stamp collages. Hang the collages in the classroom.

Language Arts: Sleepover Stories

Many children will have experienced sleepovers themselves. Others can imagine what a sleepover might be like. Ask children to write a description of their first sleepover, real or imagined. Encourage them to describe their feelings about sleeping away from home.

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.

Game for Sleepovers

Children can make a list of fun activities for a sleepover. Like the list Reggie tells to Ira. Using the keywords sleepover games, have them search the Internet for game ideas to play during sleepovers. Children can jot down details of the games they find that look like fun. Collect the ideas and save them for children to use later, on their own sleepovers.