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Activity Guide

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¡La Verdadera Historia de los Tres Cerditos!

ABOUT THE STORY

There are at least two sides to every story. In this version of the three little pigs' story, we get to hear the wolf's point of view.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

In addition to being an apartment painter, carpenter and teacher, Jon Scieszka has completed undergraduate work as a premed student at John Hopkins Medical School and was also accepted at Columbia University's School of the Arts graduate writing program. His true love, however, is writing. Mr. Scieszka has written several other books for young people, including *The Stinky Cheese Man* and *Squids Will Be Squids*.

ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

Lane Smith was born in Tulsa, Oklahoma. His works include illustrations for *The Stinky Cheese Man*, *Squids Will Be Squids*, and covers for *Atlantic Monthly*, *Time* and *Newsweek* magazines. He was also art director for the movie *James and the Giant Peach*.

INTRODUCING THE STORY

Ask children to relate the story of the three little pigs as they remember it. Then have them think about how the story might be different if the wolf told it. Explain that the story they will read is the wolf's version.

READING ACTIVITIES

Comprehension / Thinking Skills

- "How does the wolf explain what happened to the three little pigs?"
- "Do you believe him? Why or why not?" (Make judgments)
- "How is this version of the story different from the version you have heard before?" (Compare and contrast)

Vocabulary

Give the children this list of verbs. Help them to translate and define each one. Then ask them to use the verbs in sentences of their own.

| | | | |
|--------|--------|--------|-----------|
| iba | empezó | decía | había |
| estaba | tenía | caminé | era |
| toqué | quería | llamé | respondió |

CROSS-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Science: Factual and Fictional Pigs

Point out to children that real pigs don't live in houses. Ask children to work with partners to research wild or domestic pigs and write down three real habits of the animal they have chosen.

Drama: Puppet Play

Have children design stick puppets for each of the characters in the story. Provide Popsicle sticks, and have children draw each character, cut it out, and glue it to a stick. Divide children into groups, and allow each group to act out the story with its puppets.

Language Arts: Other "True" Stories

Lead children in a discussion of how other familiar stories might be told from a new point of view. Some possibilities include Hansel and Gretel from the witch's point of view, or Snow White from the point of view of one of the dwarfs. Have children pick one story and work together to create a new version of the old tale.

Science: The Big, Bad Wolf

Point out to the children that wolves are often cast as villains in stories. Explain that in reality, wolves only bother humans when threatened. Ask children to work in groups to find out what wolves are really like and to write a brief report on them. Groups can present their reports to the rest of the class.

INTERNET ACTIVITIES

Before you send children to do research using any of the keywords listed below, you may wish to try them yourself to make sure the sties are suitable.

Writing to the Author and Illustrator

Using the keywords *Jon Scieszka* or *Lane Smith*, children can find the web page of the author and illustrator of *¡La Verdadera de los Tres Cerditos!* Encourage them to email the author and illustrator to tell them what they thought of the book.