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Activity Guide

800-788-1121

Alphabears

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ABOUT THE STORY

This unusual ABC book teaches the letters of the alphabet with the names of teddy bears, from Amanda to Zak.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR/ ILLUSTRATOR

Kathleen Hague was born in Ventura, California, and trained as an artist and writer at the Los Angeles Art Center College of Design. Her husband, Michael Hague, is a Los Angeles native who graduated from the Los Angeles Art Center college of Design. He has earned a reputation as one of America's finest illustrators. The Hague's live in Colorado Springs, Colorado, with their three children.

INTRODUCING THE STORY

Ask children if they have teddy bears or other favorite stuffed animals. Have them write their toys' names on the chalkboard. Then tell them that the book they will read is about twenty-six very special teddy bears.

READING ACTIVITIES

Comprehension/Thinking Skills

- "What does Elsie the bear like to do?"
- "What makes John the bear special?"
- "What scares Laura the bear?"
- "What is different about York the bear?"
- "How are Devon the bear and his father alike?" (*Compare and Contrast*)
- "Which bear do you like best? Why?" (*Make judgments*)

Vocabulary

Point out to children that many of the bears have a word that describes them that begins with the same letter as their name. Write these words on the chalkboard. Have children copy them, putting them in alphabetical order. Then ask children to think of a sentence using each word.

frightful	young	exploring	one-year-old
mysterious	itchy	quilted	snow-loving
useless	kite-flying		

CROSS-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Language Arts: Student Bears

Have children look through the book to find the bear whose name starts with the same letter as their names. Then ask them to rewrite the page, using their own name in place of the bear's name. Children can rest the new pages aloud to the rest of the class.

Science: Animal Alphabet

All the stuffed animals in the story are bears, but children can make their own alphabet book using other animals. Have them work in pairs and assign each pair one or two letters of the alphabet. Partners can think of an animal that starts with each of their letters. Have them draw a picture of the animals and label it with its name and the letter of the alphabet. Collect the pictures in a class animal alphabet book.

Social Studies: Teddy Bear History

Have children look in encyclopedias or other reference book to find out the origin of the teddy bear. Ask them to write down the information they learned. Children can share what they have learned with the rest of the class.

Art: My Own Alphabear

Have children draw pictures of their own teddy bears or of an imaginary teddy bear. They can give their bears a name. Then encourage them to write a rhymed couplet (two lines with rhyming words at the end of the lines) to describe the bear they have drawn.

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.

Bears Online

Have children work in pairs to search the Internet for pictures of teddy bears. They can use the keywords teddy bears to locate teddy bear art. If possible, have pairs print out a picture of the bear they like the best and write a little about the bear on the picture. You can display the bears around the classroom.