



# Activity Guide

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## Minnie and Moo: The Night of the Living Bed

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### ABOUT THE STORY

The lovable cows Minnie and Moo are back in this book about a very unusual Halloween adventure. When Minnie has a bad dream and her bed goes on a trip, Minnie and Moo experience a Halloween unlike any they've ever had before.

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR/ILLUSTRATOR

Denys Cazet worked as a cook, gardener, ditch digger, farmer, cable splicer, and school librarian before he began writing books for children. He is the author of several other books about Minnie and Moo, including *Minnie and Moo Go to the Moon*, *Minnie and Moo Save the Earth*, and *Minnie and Moo Go Dancing*, all Live Oak Readalongs. Denys Cazet lives in northern California.

### INTRODUCING THE STORY

Ask children to describe strange or scary dreams they have had. Then tell them that the book they will read is about an adventure that begins with a bad dream.

### READING ACTIVITIES

#### **Comprehension/Thinking Skills**

- “What happens in Minnie’s dream?”
- “What happens to the bed?”
- “What is Hamlet’s trick?”
- “How do the animals get the bed back where it belongs?”
- “Why do all the people the animals meet give away candy?” (*Draw Conclusions*)
- “Why won’t the first man give the animals any candy?” (*Draw Conclusions*)

### Vocabulary

Write these verbs on the chalkboard. Ask volunteers to act out each verb. When it is clear that children understand the meaning of the words, ask them to choose three and use them in a paragraph of their own.

hauled	scooped	whizzed
gaped	bounced	roared

### CROSS-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

#### **Social Studies: The Original Halloween**

Tell children that the holiday of Halloween originated a long time ago as All Hallow’s Eve. Ask them to look in book about holidays or an encyclopedia to find out about the origins of Halloween. Children can write up the information they gather in a brief report about Halloween’s past.

#### **Health: Rating Halloween Candy**

Bring in the wrappers of several different kinds of candy that children might receive on Halloween. Have children look at the nutritional information on the wrappers. Go over the meaning of the various notations on the nutrition guide. Lead children to notice the difference between the candies’ amounts of fat, salt, calcium, and other items. Help children determine which candies have the greatest nutritional value.

#### **Art: Design a Costume**

Point out the various costumes Minnie and Moo see on page 39. Ask children to design and draw their own costume for Halloween. Encourage them to be as imaginative as possible. When they are done, hang the costume illustrations around the classroom.

#### **Language Arts: Describe a Dream**

The dream that starts Minnie and Moo’s adventure is pretty strange. Ask children to write a description of the strangest dream they have ever had. If they have trouble remembering a dream, they can make one up. Encourage volunteers to read their descriptions aloud to the class.

### 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.

#### **Halloween around the World**

Using the keywords *Halloween around the world*, children can search the Internet to find out how Halloween is celebrated in other countries around the world. Ask them to work in pairs to choose one country. Partners can write down an interesting fact about how Halloween is celebrated in that country and then share the fact with the rest of the class.