



Mouse Soup

By Arnold Lobel

GRL J

ABOUT THE BOOK:

A weasel catches a mouse, and he means to make the mouse into mouse soup. However, the mouse convinces the weasel the soup will taste better if it has stories in it. So the mouse tells the weasel stories and then convinces the weasel to collect items from the stories to put into his soup: bees, stones, crickets, and thorns. But will that tricky mouse stay in the pot until weasel returns?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Considering the entire book, how would you describe the mouse? Why? How would you describe the weasel? Why? How do they help cause the events in the story? How do they respond to the events in the story? *Common Core State Standards (Reading: Literature): RL.K.3., RL.1.3., RL.2.3., RL.3.3.*
2. Retell each of the stories in *Mouse Soup*. What would you say is the central message, lesson, moral, or theme of each story? What would you say is the book's overall message, lesson, moral, or theme? Use details to support your answers. *Common Core State Standards (Reading: Literature): RL.K.2., RL.1.2., RL.2.2., RL.3.2.*
3. Every story has a surprise or misunderstanding. Describe each of these. How do the surprises or misunderstandings affect the characters? How do they affect the stories overall? *Common Core State Standards (Reading: Literature): RL.K.1., RL.1.1., RL.2.1., RL.3.1.*
4. How do the illustrations in the book help tell each story, including the story of mouse and weasel? What do you learn from the illustrations that you don't learn from the stories' words? How else do the illustrations contribute to your understanding of the characters, the settings, and the stories? *Common Core State Standards (Reading: Literature): RL.K.7., RL.1.7., RL.2.7., RL.3.7.*

Common Core State Standards (Speaking and Listening) that discussions might also address: SL.K.1a-b., SL.1.1a-c., SL.2.1a-c., SL.3.1a-d., SL.K.6., SL.1.6., SL.2.6., SL.3.6.

EXTENSION ACTIVITIES:

What Happens Next Story: Using what you know about weasel, brainstorm what you think he does after he returns home with all the things he collects for his soup. Does he try to make the soup? Does he try to find mouse again? Does he change his mind forever about mice and soup? Once you've finished with your brainstorming, write a What Happens Next story, a sequel to *Mouse Soup*. When you've finished, share it with your classmates. *Common Core State Standards (Writing): W.K.3., W.1.3., W.2.3., W.3.3a., W.3.3b., W.3.3c., W.3.3d.*

A Once When I Was Tricky Tale: Think about a time when you were tricky in order to change or adapt to a tough situation. What did you do? How did your actions alter the situation? How do you feel now about what you did? Using the answers to these questions, dictate, write, or draw your own great Once When I Was Tricky tale. *Common Core State Standards (Writing): W.K.3., W.1.3., W.2.3., W.3.3a., W.3.3b., W.3.3c., W.3.3d.*

Author Investigation—Arnold Lobel: With help from your teacher, research Arnold Lobel. Find out about when he lived and the books he wrote. You might read or listen to a few more books by him as part of your study, like the Frog and Toad books. After you've completed all your research, create an Author Investigation poster, guide, or multimedia presentation for your classroom—teach everyone in your class about this fabulous author. *Common Core State Standards (Writing): W.K.2., W.1.2., W.2.2., W.3.2a., W.3.2b., W.3.2c., W.3.2d.*

Your Favorite Surprise Comic: Which surprise in these stories is your favorite? Why? What did it make you think, feel, or do? Using examples from the words and the illustrations, as well as examples of your reactions to them, draw a comic about the surprise you like best. Also describe why you like it and what you did when you read it. Once you finish Your Favorite Surprise comic, maybe post it on your classroom website or blog. *Common Core State Standards (Writing): W.K.1., W.1.1., W.2.1., W.3.1a., W.3.1b., W.3.1c., W.3.1d.*

Common Core State Standards (Writing) that writing activities might also address: W.K.5., W.1.5., W.2.5., W.3.5., W.K.6., W.1.6., W.2.6., W.3.6.

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