

A Mouse in the House

by Jane Buxton

Summary

A visiting mouse saves a young girl from having to wear the new sneakers she dislikes. In return, the girl helps the mouse to escape the mousetraps her mother has hidden around the house.

Features of the Text

- Realistic fiction
- Direct speech
- Problem-solving focus
- Information about animal behavior

Purpose

A Mouse in the House can be used for the following purposes:

- introducing the ideas and vocabulary in the associated nonfiction title;
- making predictions;
- identifying the problems and solutions in a narrative.

Following Up

The students can:

- use the copy master on page 62 to list the problems that arise in the story and how each one is resolved
- make a poster to be read by mice advertising the features of a house they would find appealing.

Guided Reading Summary

Introducing the text

Ask the students to share any experiences of having mice in their homes.

- Does anyone have a pet mouse?
- Has anyone had mice in their home that weren't pets?
- What kinds of problems do mice cause?
- Can mice ever be helpful?
- What can we do to keep mice away from our homes?

Reading and discussing the text

Ask the students to read to the end of page 3.

- What do you think Jamie will do about her new sneakers?
- Think about the title of the book. Does that change your prediction?

Ask the students to read to the end of page 4. Tell them to continue making, checking, and revising their predictions as they read.

- Were your predictions correct?
- How do you think Jamie will feel about having a mouse in her house?
- Will she help to get rid of the mouse? Why/why not?

Ask the students to read to the end of page 11.

- Did Jamie do what you thought she would?
- What do you think she will do next?

Ask the students to read the rest of the story.

- Was your prediction correct?
- How else could the problem have been solved?
- How do predictions help us to understand a story as we read it?