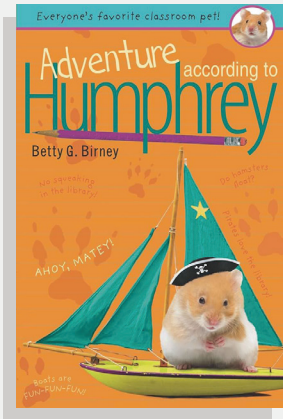


Book Club for Kids



Adventure According to Humphrey

by Betty Birney

Recommended Ages:

7-12



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Summary: Humphrey is in for his biggest adventure yet! When his friends begin studying the ocean and boats, he discovers the new and exciting world of the library and learns about the science and art of building and sailing ships. Even with all this excitement, Humphrey finds time to smooth rough waters in the classroom and have a few adventures of his own.

Discussion Questions: Spoiler alert! Some of the questions contain key elements of the plot. Do not read if you don't want to know what happens!

1. In the story, Kirk gets so caught up in his desire to win, he almost destroys his friendship with Richie. How could they have won the contest without Richie feeling left out?
2. What makes a good winner? What makes a good loser? Name five things you can do to be a good teammate whether you win or lose.
3. Why do you think Gail is so quiet when everyone is making plans to decorate their boats? How does she let people know how she's feeling? What else might she have done to let people know how she was feeling? What happens to make her feelings change about the project?
4. Can you remember an adventure you were looking forward to, such as a boat ride, bicycle ride, hike, or campout? Did it turn out the way you expected? Did you have any surprising experiences?

Activities:

- Humphrey's friends in Room 26 build their own boats for the contest on Potter's Pond and learn about things that float. Find five things that you're sure will float in water, five things that you're sure will not float in water, and five things that you're not sure will float. Test them out and see what floats. Were there any surprises? Can you explain why certain items floated and others sank?
- Go to the library and check out books about real pirates. What did pirates do? What was the life of a real pirate like? Were there any women pirates? After reading about pirates, would you want to be one? Why or why not?
- Share these pirate riddles. Look up more or make up your own!

Q. What do you get when you cross a pie with a rat?
A. A pie rat! Arrrrgh!

Q. Why does it take a pirate so long to learn the alphabet?

A. Because they can spend years at C!

Q. How much does it cost a pirate to get earrings?

A. A buccaneer!

Q. Why didn't the pirate get hungry on the desert island?

A. Because of all the sand which is there!

Q. What is a pirate's favorite kind of cookie?

A. Ships Ahoy!

Q. How much did the pirate pay for his peg leg and hook?

A. An arm and a leg!

Adapted from Penguin.