

# RALPH S. MOUSE

## RALPH S. MOUSE

By Beverly Cleary

Themes: Fantasy & Imagination, Friendship

Grade Level: K - 6

Running Time: 41 minutes

## SUMMARY

Ralph must leave the Mountain View Inn or risk having elderly bellman, Matt, lose his job due to an overabundance of mice on the premises. But where to go? Ralph persuades his friend Ryan to take him to school, where he feasts on students lunches, has several nasty run-ins with the mouse-catching janitor, and is the subject of a maze experiment in mouse intelligence. When all is said and done, Ralph has helped Ryan and bully Brad on the road to friendship, given the class a lesson in dealing with inaccurate news stories, shown outstanding creative thinking in dealing with the maze and outwitted a state-of-the-art mouse-trap. Gratefully, Ralph returns to the Mountain View Inn, basing in the quiet peace of home a quiet broken only by the vroom, vroom of his new red sports car!

## OBJECTIVES

¥To promote enthusiasm for reading, writing, and communicating by bringing a favorite book to life.

¥To stimulate discussion about school friendships.

## BEFORE VIEWING ACTIVITIES

Read the book, *RALPH S. MOUSE*, and other books in the series to the class.

## AFTER VIEWING ACTIVITIES

Use these discussion topics, activities, and questions to review the program material.

¥ What does Ralph do at school? What happens to make him noticed by the other children?

¥ Describe the relationship between Ralph and Ryan, Ralph and Matt, and Matt and the Manager. Which of these characters are friends? How can you tell?

¥ What does Brad think about Ralph? About Ryan? Why did Mrs. Kuchenbacker have them work together?

¥ How will running the maze show something about mouse intelligence? How does Ralph tackle the maze?

¥ How do Ralph's troubles with the janitor bring Ryan and Brad together?

¥ Do group research on mazes and how they are used to measure intelligence.

¥ Try building a maze for an animal as an interesting science experiment. Or draw a maze, or just solve a pencil maze yourself. Don't forget that there is only one route that goes all the way through from beginning to end.

¥ Do you think Ralph showed intelligence when he ran the maze? Write a paragraph giving your opinions and reasons, and illustrate it with a picture of Ralph.

¥ Do you have a pet? Draw a picture of him or her and write a story about something you and

your pet do together. If you don't have a pet, make one up.

¥ Mr. Costa has built a very complicated machine for a very simple purpose. Try to design a funny machine like his, and draw a picture of it. Write or tell what it is and how it works.

¥ There have been some changes in relationships in this story. Discuss what changed, and why.

¥ Read *RUNAWAY RALPH*, *THE MOUSE AND THE MOTORCYCLE*, and *RALPH S. MOUSE*. Do you have a favorite? Report about the book you read.

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