

THE MOUSE AND THE MOTORCYCLE

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By Beverly Cleary

Themes: Fantasy & Imagination, Friendship

Grade Level: K - 6

Running Time: 41 minutes

SUMMARY

Stuck at a rundown hotel for the weekend, young Keith finds his prized toy motorcycle missing. The unlikely thief is an adventurous and rather careless young mouse named Ralph! With Keith's permission, Ralph takes the motorcycle out for a spin to open it up; see what it'll do and roars off on a series of exciting and dangerous adventures. Though warned to take good care of the motorcycle, Ralph loses it in the laundry basket after a narrow escape from a hungry vacuum cleaner. Things get worse when Keith suddenly falls ill. The pressure's on as Ralph commandeers the boy's toy ambulance on a crazy midnight ride through the hotel in search of medicine. He encounters all the dangers his mother warned him about: a night feeding owl, an excitable dog, and a mouse-hunting cat.

OBJECTIVES

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

¥To stimulate discussion about friendship.

BEFORE VIEWING ACTIVITIES

Read the book, *THE MOUSE AND THE MOTORCYCLE*, and other books in the series to the class.

AFTER VIEWING ACTIVITIES

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

- ¥ How do Ralph and Keith meet? Why do they become friends so quickly?
- ¥ What does Keith do for Ralph and what does Ralph do for Keith?
- ¥ Why do both Ralph and Keith like the toy motorcycle so much?
- ¥ What kind of trouble does Ralph get into with the motorcycle? How does he save the day with the ambulance? What kind of mouse do you think Ralph is? creative thinker? resourceful? adventurous? disobedient? cautious? How can you tell?
- ¥ What kind of person do you think Keith is? How can you tell?
- ¥ Draw a picture of Ralph doing something from the film, book, or your own imagination. Write a brief description of the picture.
- ¥ Tell the class about one of your favorite toys and how you play with it (with or without mouse or human friends.)
- ¥ 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.

¥ 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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