

Storytime Activity: Replacement Text Connection
for *Favorite Uncle Wiggly Animal Bedtime Stories:*
Sammie Littletail in a Trap by Howard Garis
using *The Adventures of Jerry Muskrat* by Thornton W. Burgess

Note: *Favorite Uncle Wiggly Animal Bedtime Stories: Sammie Littletail in a Trap* is currently out of print. The plans for *The Adventures of Jerry Muskrat* that are listed below replace the plans for *Favorite Uncle Wiggly...* in the Storytime box of *Little Hearts for His Glory*. All resources used with *Little Hearts for His Glory* are available online from Heart of Dakota Publishing at www.heartofdakota.com or by phone at (605) 428-4068.

Unit 29 – Day 4



Storytime

Read aloud the assigned chapter in the following book:

★ *The Adventures of Jerry Muskrat*
Chapters I and II: p. 1-6

Say, *Jerry Muskrat called himself “Uncle Jerry” when he boasted that he’d never be fooled by Farmer Brown.*

On unlined paper, write the following sentences: *Jerry Muskrat would like Farmer Brown to call him by this whole name: Uncle Jerry Muskrat. _____’s whole name is _____.*

In the first blank, have students write their own names. For the next long blank, have students write their full names. If needed, make dotted outlines of the letters for the students to trace. Students may also glue a photograph of themselves on the paper.

Key Idea: Jerry Muskrat got caught in Farmer Brown’s trap. He should have listened to his Mother’s advice instead of boasting.

Unit 29 – Day 5



Storytime

Read aloud the assigned chapter in the following book:

★ *The Adventures of Jerry Muskrat*
Chapters III and IV: p. 7-13

Say, *Who did Jerry Muskrat and Little Joe Otter go to see? Why did they go to see him? What was Grandfather Frog’s plan to save the animals from the traps? Grandfather Frog warned the animals not to eat any of the food in the traps until they were sprung. Name some warnings that you have been given. Why is it important to listen to warnings?*

Key Idea: All of the animals met to discuss what to do about Farmer Brown’s traps. Everyone decided to ask Grandfather Frog for his advice. Grandfather Frog took a night to think about his plan. His plan was to have the animals set off all of the traps by dropping a rock or a stone in them. He warned them not to eat the food in the traps. He said they should set off the traps first, and then collect the food for a grand feast later.

Storytime Activity: Replacement Text Connection (continued)

Unit 30 – Day 1

Storytime



Read aloud the assigned chapter in the following book:

★ *The Adventures of Jerry Muskrat*
Chapters V and VI: p. 14-19

Say, *Why was everyone so excited? How did Jerry know the fish was part of a trap? What happened to Little Joe? Why was Farmer Brown's boy confused? What did the animals do after the traps were reset?*

Key Idea: All of the animals were hunting for traps. Jerry Muskrat saved Little Joe from a trap. Farmer Brown's boy found all of his traps sprung and empty. He reset the traps, but the animals sprung them again.

Unit 30 – Day 2

Storytime



Read aloud the assigned chapter in the following book:

★ *The Adventures of Jerry Muskrat*
Chapters VII and VIII: p. 20-27

Guide students to retell today's reading. Say, *Look at the picture on p. 22 to help you retell the first part of today's story.* (Pause for the students to retell that part of the story.) After Jerry Muskrat noticed something was wrong with the Smiling Pool, tell what Grandfather Frog discovered.

Key Idea: Jerry noticed something was wrong with the Smiling Pool. Grandfather Frog watched his toes and found something was wrong too.

Unit 30 – Day 3

Storytime



Read aloud the assigned chapter in the following book:

★ *The Adventures of Jerry Muskrat*
Chapter IX and X: p. 28-33

Ask, *What does it mean to be "deaf"?* (Reread the first and second paragraphs on p. 29 for help.) Do you know anyone who is deaf? Was Grandfather Frog really deaf? Guess what happened to the Laughing Brook and the Smiling Pool.

Key Idea: Jerry and Grandfather Frog realized the Laughing Brook and the Smiling Pool were drying up. The world seemed to be upside down.

Unit 30 – Day 4

Storytime



Read aloud the assigned chapter in the following book:

★ *The Adventures of Jerry Muskrat*
Chapters XI and XII: p. 34-41

On unlined paper, write the following sentences: *Ol' Mistah Buzzard helped search for the problem at the Laughing Brook. ____ helps by ____, ____, and ____.* In the first blank, have students write their own names. In the last blanks, have students list ways they help others. Students may also draw a picture of themselves helping.

Key Idea: The animals went to see what was wrong at the brook.

Storytime Activity: Replacement Text Connection (continued)

Unit 30 – Day 5

Storytime



Read aloud the assigned chapter in the following book:

★ *The Adventures of Jerry Muskrat*
Chapters XIII and XIV: p. 42-49

Say, Each animal wanted to be the first one to get to the Laughing Brook. Everyone thought Spotty the Turtle would be the last one there. Why did Spotty get there first? Name some things that are hard for you to do. How can you be like Spotty and persevere to finish these things?

Key Idea: Spotty the Turtle didn't stop on his way to the Laughing Brook. Even though he moved slowly, his perseverance helped him arrive first.

Unit 31 – Day 1

Storytime



Read aloud the assigned chapter in the following book:

★ *The Adventures of Jerry Muskrat*
Chapters XV and XVI: p. 50-56

Say, What did Spotty the Turtle find at the Laughing Brook? Why did Spotty wish he could be like Happy Jack? What thought helped Spotty feel better? Have you ever wished you were like someone else? Name some things you do well. Others may wish they could be like you. How did Spotty find out what was behind the wall?

Key Idea: Spotty quit wishing he was like Happy Jack, and worked hard to crawl over the wall to find the problem.

Unit 31 – Day 2

Storytime



Read aloud the assigned chapter in the following book:

★ *The Adventures of Jerry Muskrat*
Chapter XVII: p. 57-60

Ask students to retell today's story. Use the following questions as needed to guide them through the retelling: *What did everyone want to know at the beginning of today's reading? Explain what Billy Mink said. Who did Grandfather Frog ask about at the end of today's reading?*

Key Idea: Everyone wanted to know who had made the pool. Billy Mink described a dam. Grandfather Frog asked Jerry if his cousin was visiting.

Unit 31 – Day 3

Storytime



Read aloud the assigned chapter in the following book:

★ *The Adventures of Jerry Muskrat*
Chapters XVIII and XIX: p. 61-66

Say, What is a "dam"? (Reread the first paragraph on p. 61 and the first paragraph on p. 64 for help.) How did the tree trunk get there? Why did Grandfather Frog think whoever built the dam was selfish? What job did Jerry Muskrat have to do? What made the job hard to do?

Key Idea: Grandfather Frog asked Jerry Muskrat to dig a hole in the bottom of the dam. Jerry Muskrat worked hard all day until the water began to run in the Laughing Brook.

Storytime Activity: Replacement Text Connection (continued)

Unit 31 – Day 4

Storytime



Read aloud the assigned chapter in the following book:

★ *The Adventures of Jerry Muskrat*
Chapters XX: p. 67-70

On unlined paper, write the following sentences: *Jerry Muskrat works hard at making a hole in the dam. ___ works hard at ___ in the ___.* In the first blank, have students write their own names. In the next blanks, have students write something they work hard at doing, and where the work is done. Students may draw themselves doing the work.

Key Idea: Jerry Muskrat worked hard at making a hole in the dam. It looked like he'd have to dig the hole again.

Unit 31 – Day 5

Storytime



Read aloud the assigned chapter in the following book:

★ *The Adventures of Jerry Muskrat*
Chapters XXI and XXII: p. 71-78

Say, *Why was Jerry Muskrat afraid of the animal that had built the dam? What made him "lose his fear"? Name some things that make you fearful. How could you "lose your fears" about them? Sometimes just learning more about your fears is enough to make you get over being fearful.*

Key Idea: Jerry Muskrat was afraid of Paddy the Beaver. Jerry "lost his fear" when he met Paddy and discovered that Paddy was actually very friendly.

Unit 32 – Day 1

Storytime



Read aloud the assigned chapter in the following book:

★ *The Adventures of Jerry Muskrat*
Chapter XXIII: p. 79-82

Say, *How did Jerry Muskrat explain the problem with the Laughing Brook to Paddy? Was Paddy angry? What did Paddy do after he knew the problem? How did Paddy's kindness change the way Jerry Muskrat and Grandfather Frog felt about him?*

Key Idea: Paddy was bigger than Jerry Muskrat. Paddy could have kept living in his dam. Instead, he chose to be kind and break it apart.

Unit 32 – Day 2

Storytime



Read aloud the assigned chapter in the following book:

★ *The Adventures of Jerry Muskrat*
Chapter XXIV: p. 83-86

Ask students to retell today's story. Use the following questions as needed to guide them through the retelling: *Why was everyone so happy? How was the trip back to the Smiling Pool different from the first trip? Explain how the animals helped each other.*

Key Idea: The animals all went back to the Smiling Pool together. Helping each other made the trip go quickly. Everyone was happy to work together.

Storytime Activity: Replacement Text Connection (continued)

Unit 32 – Day 3

Storytime



Read aloud the assigned chapter in the following book:

★ *The Adventures of Jerry Muskrat*
Chapters XXV: p. 87-90

Ask, *What does “shiver” mean?* (Use the last paragraph on p. 88 for help.)
Why did Bowser the Hound’s voice make Paddy shiver? Where was Paddy going to stay? Jerry and Paddy were both good friends and cousins to each other. Who are your good friends with that you are also related to?

Key Idea: Paddy decided to live along the Laughing Brook. The animals were all happy that Paddy stayed – but Jerry Muskrat was especially glad.