



ONE IS A FEAST FOR MOUSE: A THANKSGIVING TALE

JUDY COX • ILLUSTRATED BY JEFFREY EBBELER

About the Book

In this cumulative tale in which the action or dialogue repeats and builds, Mouse spots a small green pea, the perfect feast for one mouse. Yes, one green pea, one red cranberry, one plate of mashed potatoes, and one roasted turkey—that should make a very fine feast for Mouse. But can he get it all back to his hidey-hole?

HC: 978-0-8234-1977-7 / PB: 978-0-8234-2231-9

GRADES
PREK–2

SUGGESTED CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES

Literature/Language Arts

Fiction versus Nonfiction—*One Is a Feast for Mouse: A Thanksgiving Tale* shows a mouse doing things that real mice do not do. Discuss the meaning of fiction versus nonfiction. Read a nonfiction book about mice and compare the behavior of real mice with that of Mouse in this story. Include what actual mice eat.

Proverbs—The author uses the proverb “His eyes were bigger than his stomach” to describe Mouse’s actions. Discuss the concept of proverbs with students and ask them to tell or write what this proverb means. Were his eyes *really* bigger than his stomach? Students can explore other proverbs that might relate to this story and can discuss or write about their meanings, such as: “All that glitters is not gold,” “A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush,” and “Look before you leap.”

Word Meanings—Discuss the meanings of the word *greedy* and *feast*. Do you think Mouse was greedy? How did he figure out that one green pea was enough? What is the difference between a feast and a regular meal?

All About Thanksgiving—*One Is a Feast for Mouse* describes a traditional American Thanksgiving feast. Students can read other stories or poems about Thanksgiving and can compare the menus with this one. They can also discuss or write about what they traditionally eat on Thanksgiving and about what they are most thankful for.

Mathematics

Sequence/Ordinal Numbers—Print the different foods Mouse collected—each on a separate word card—and ask students to recall which came first, second, third, etc. in the story. Each student who names the correct food in the correct order (pea, cranberry, olive, carrot stick, mashed potatoes, gravy, pumpkin pie, turkey) can come to the front of the class and hold up that card.

Size—Bring to class an actual pea, cranberry, olive, etc., and plates to represent the other items. Students can measure them and create a chart showing their various sizes. Discuss the concepts of big/bigger/biggest, small/smaller/smallest, etc.

Art

Ask students to illustrate what their ideal feast would be and add a written description. Or they can create an illustrated menu.

The illustration on the last page of the book shows Mouse eating his green pea in his house behind the clock. Students can observe what he uses for a table, chair, etc. What other items might he use in his house? Students can create a three-dimensional representation of Mouse’s living quarters—perhaps as a diorama, or on a flat piece of poster board.

Online Resources

Students can explore well-known proverbs and sayings at:
<http://www.learn-english-today.com/Proverbs/proverbs.html>
This site presents an alphabetical list of proverbs and their meanings.

For Further Reading

Cumulative Tales

If You're Happy and You Know it by Jane Cabrera
Anansi and the Moss-Covered Rock by Eric A. Kimmel, illustrated by Janet Stevens
Down on the Farm by Merrily Kutner, illustrated by Will Hillenbrand
The Princess and the Pea adapted and illustrated by Janet Stevens

Thanksgiving

Beauty and the Beaks by Mary Jane and Herm Auch
Thanksgiving Is . . . by Gail Gibbons

Classroom Activities prepared by Sandy Schuckett, School Library Consultant.

About the Author and Illustrator

Judy Cox is an elementary school teacher and the author of picture books and fiction for young readers. She received an Anne Izard Storytellers' Choice Award for children for *One Is a Feast for Mouse*, the first book about Mouse. *School Library Journal* called *Go to Sleep, Groundhog!* "irresistible," while *Booklist* praised it as "charming." She lives with her family in Oregon. Visit Judy online at www.judycox.net.

Jeffrey Ebbeler has worked as an art director, book designer, and illustrator. His art for *One Is a Feast for Mouse* was called "colorful" and "dramatic" by *Booklist*. And *School Library Journal* called his illustrations for *Punxsutawney Phyllis* by Susanna Leonard Hill "exuberant . . . rustic [and] cozy." He plays the trumpet and drums, and Jeff lives with his wife and twin daughters in Cincinnati. Check out his website at www.jeffillustration.com.

The Mouse Stories

by Judy Cox, illustrated by Jeffrey Ebbeler

ONE IS A FEAST FOR MOUSE: A Thanksgiving Tale

HC: 978-0-8234-1977-7 / PB: 978-0-8234-2231-9

CINCO DE MOUSE-O!

HC: 978-0-8234-2194-7 / PB: 978-0-8234-2328-6

HAUNTED HOUSE, HAUNTED MOUSE

HC: 978-0-8234-2315-6 / PB: 978-0-8234-2544-0

SNOW DAY FOR MOUSE

HC: 978-0-8234-2408-5

5.12

Holiday House   Follow Us Online

HOLIDAY HOUSE • 425 MADISON AVENUE • NEW YORK, NY 10017
WWW.HOLIDAYHOUSE.COM