



#10081 PICNIC

WESTON WOODS STUDIOS, 1991
Grade/Interest Level: Ps-1
13 mins.

DESCRIPTION

A mouse family goes on a picnic, but along the way Baby Mouse falls out of the truck. The family enjoys swimming and playing games, while Baby gets a new perspective on the world. When they

finally realize he is missing, the family searches for him until they are reunited. Nonverbal story, based on the American Library Association Notable Book by Emily Arnold McCully.



ACADEMIC STANDARDS

Subject Area: Health

- Standard: Understands the relationship of family health to individual health
 - ◆ Benchmark: Knows the roles of parents and the extended family in supporting a strong family and promoting the health of children (e.g., the limits parents set for children, the values or religious beliefs taught, behaviors and values modeled) (See INSTRUCTIONAL GOALS 1.)

Subject Area: Language Arts–Viewing

- Standard: Uses viewing skills and strategies to understand and interpret visual media
 - ◆ Benchmark: Understands the main idea or message in visual media (e.g., pictures, cartoons, weather reports on television, newspaper photographs, visual narratives) (See INSTRUCTIONAL GOALS 3.)

Subject Area: Language Arts–Reading

- Standard: Uses reading skills and strategies to understand and interpret a variety of literary texts
 - ◆ Benchmark: Uses reading skills and strategies to understand a variety of familiar literary passages and texts (e.g., fairy tales, folktales, fiction, nonfiction, legends, fables, myths, poems, nursery rhymes, picture books, predictable books) (See INSTRUCTIONAL GOALS 4.)

INSTRUCTIONAL GOALS

1. To illustrate the way family members care for and feel about one another.
2. To explore family outings.
3. To follow a nonverbal story in video format.
4. To promote the reading of children's literature.

VOCABULARY

- | | |
|--------------------|----------------|
| 1. basket | 8. lake |
| 2. banjo | 9. lost |
| 3. bumpy | 10. mouse/mice |
| 4. family | 11. picnic |
| 5. father/mother | 12. truck |
| 6. find | 13. woods |
| 7. grandpa/grandma | |

BEFORE SHOWING

1. Share the book *Picnic* by Emily Arnold McCully. Stop often to predict what will happen next. Discuss the emotions the various mice have throughout the story.
2. Discuss family outings. Ask:
 - a. What did you and your family members do on this special day?
 - b. What other kinds of things made the day seem special to you?
 - c. How did you feel about your family members during your outing?
 - d. How did you feel at the end of the day?
3. Share experiences with becoming separated from your family. Discuss how it feels at the time and after you are reunited.

DURING SHOWING

1. View the video more than once, with one showing uninterrupted.
2. Pause during the first scene of the truck going over bumps in the road. Predict what might happen.

AFTER SHOWING

Discussion Items and Questions

1. What did the mouse family put in the picnic basket? Why wasn't the littlest mouse helping pack the picnic basket? What was the mood of the members of the mouse family?
2. Describe what happened on the truck ride. How did the littlest mouse feel after she fell out of the truck?
3. Describe where the mouse family went. List the various activities the mice did on their picnic outing.
4. What scared the little lost mouse? What did she find to eat?
5. Explain how the mouse family discovered that the littlest mouse was missing. Describe what they did next.

6. What idea did the grandpa mouse have? What did the mouse family do next? How did they find the littlest mouse?
7. Why did the littlest mouse run back into the woods?
8. Why didn't the littlest mouse want any of the picnic food?
9. Discuss why all of the mice family members were on the picnic blanket in the final scene.

Applications and Activities

1. Imagine an elephant family having a picnic. Think of games they might play and food they would eat. Write or dictate a story about the elephants' picnic. Illustrate the story.
2. Have a picnic outside or on the floor of the classroom. Plan and make a special lunch. Supply a basket with cups, plates, and napkins. Spread out a large blanket and enjoy.
3. Practice telling a story with only pictures. Use five sheets of paper taped together horizontally to make one long sheet. Draw a series of pictures to tell a story. Share.
4. Research and report on different kinds of mice.
5. Read other books about mice or about family outings.
 - a. *Mouse Soup* by Arnold Lobel.
 - b. *The Little Mouse, the Red Ripe Strawberry, and the Big Hungry Bear* by Audrey Wood.
 - c. *If You Give a Mouse a Cookie* by Laura Joffe.
 - d. *Julius, the Baby of the World* by Kevin Henkes.
 - e. *Little Critter's the Picnic* by Mercer Mayer.
 - f. *See You in Second Grade* by Miriam Cohen.
 - g. *The Bears' Picnic* by Stan Berenstain.

SUMMARY

Picnic is a wordless story about a family of mice out for a picnicking day in the country. During the ride to the picnic area, the smallest mouse falls off the back of the truck, unbeknownst to the rest of the family. The sad little mouse finds flower blossoms to eat and fills herself up with them in an unfamiliar surrounding. Meanwhile, the mouse family is having a wonderful time at the picnic. When it is discovered that the small mouse is missing, the family rushes back to the truck and searches for her. The end of the story finds the little mouse happily reunited with her family, but hardly ready to enjoy a picnic lunch!

CMP RELATED RESOURCES

- [Chrysanthemum #10052](#)
- [Here Comes the Cat #3042](#)
- [Mole at the Carnival #2314](#)
- [Noisy Nora #3276](#)
- [Sylvester and the Magic Pebble #3080](#)
- [The Snowman #1810](#)



World Wide Web



The following Web sites complement the contents of this guide; they were selected by professionals who have experience in teaching deaf and hard of hearing students. Every effort was made to select accurate, educationally relevant, and “kid safe” sites. However, teachers should preview them before use. The U.S. Department of Education, the National Association of the Deaf, and the Captioned Media Program do not endorse the sites and are not responsible for their content.

- **AUTHOR: EMILY MCCULLY**

<http://www.bcplonline.org/kidspage/mccully.html#biography>

This site gives a biography of the author and a list of the titles she has authored and illustrated.

- **PICNIC THEME**

<http://www.stepbystepcc.com/picnic.html>

A book list, songs, poems, and arts and crafts ideas that are centered around a picnic theme are included in this site.

- **WONDERFUL WORLD OF WORDLESS BOOKS**

http://www.everythingsesl.net/in-services/wordless_books.php

This page on the Web site of Everything ESL describes a number of different ways to use wordless books with students, especially English-language learners. It also includes a short list of wordless books.

- **ANIMAL DIVERSITY WEB**

http://animaldiversity.ummz.umich.edu/site/accounts/information/Peromyscus_leucopus.html

This site from the University of Michigan Museum of Zoology includes detailed information about the white-footed mouse of North America, along with photos.