

If You Give a Mouse a Cookie

Based on the book by Laura Joffe Numeroff

Adapted for the stage by Jody Davidson

Here you will find resources helpful in preparing children for an enjoyable and educational theatrical experience. Included you will find genre information, author's biographies, vocabulary and further resources. Lesson plans are also included, complete with curriculum connections to the Arkansas Department of Education's Curriculum Frameworks. Children's Theatre strives to assist families and educators in creating the most comprehensive learning experience possible.

About the Author

If You Give a Mouse a Cookie was Laura Joffe Numeroff's first book and generally considered her best. The book was so popular that it inspired *the If You Give A* series. The main character of this story, Mouse, appears in three others: *If You Take a Mouse to the Movies*, *If You Take a Mouse to School* and *The Best Mouse Cookie*.

About The Play

The plot deals with a mouse that is given a cookie, and then demands even greater gifts until his host, a boy, is completely frazzled. The cumulative effect of the storyline is readily comparable to the song *There Was an Old Lady Who Swallowed A Fly*.

The Plot

Who would suspect that a tiny little mouse could wear out an energetic young boy? Well, if you're going to go around giving an exuberantly bossy rodent a cookie, he should be prepared to provide one or two more favors before the day is over. He'll certainly need a glass of milk to wash down that cookie, won't he? And the boy can't expect the mouse to drink the milk without a straw, can he? By the time the boy is finished granting all of the mouse's very urgent requests – and cleaning up after him – it's no wonder his head is becoming a bit heavy.

The consequences of giving a cookie to this energetic mouse run the boy ragged; but young audiences will come away giggling at the antics that tumble like dominoes through the performance. Underneath the folly, of course, are valuable life lessons.

Classroom Activities

1. Elementary Children (K-3)

Have each child bring their **Favorite Cookie Recipe** (from their mother or grandmother) Compile everyone's recipes and make a cookie recipe book for moms or grandmothers! This would be great for Mother's Day or for birthdays etc. or just to say "I Love You!" It would also be a great thank you from the teachers for moms who have helped all year. You might also need a fund raiser. If you let the students illustrate the cookie book it is a sure best seller among relatives!

2. Elementary Children (K-3)

This would be a great **Science** tie in. You could do a study of small mammals. You might even have a class pet. (Mouse) You could study life cycle, eating habits, habitat, etc.

3. Elementary (K-3)

You could make this a **Math** tie in. Bring in a recipe for cookies and have the children measure the ingredients and make the cookie dough. If you are really feeling ambitious you could teach them to double the recipe or half the recipe. Most school kitchens will allow you to bake the cookies or they will bake them for you. Lots of math involved with this. To make the activity fun after all the math you could decorate the cookies, like a mouse!

4. Elementary (K-3) or (4-6)

Let the children make **Puppets** that go with the book. Easy puppets would be paper sack puppets or more complicated would be cloth. Students could retell the story. They could even write new endings. This is great for sequencing. Older students could even practice their speaking skills in front of an audience by taking their puppets to a younger grade level and telling the story to the students.

5. Elementary (4-6)

Let the children do a **Research Project On Small Mammals**. Teach them how to write a report and then have them write it on this topic. Be sure to teach them to do a bibliography to add credibility to their report. Make sure they include information on where the mouse is in the food chain, a great way to introduce predator/prey concepts.

6. Elementary (4-6)

Have the students do **Research On The Author** of this book. Then they could write a report or a poem about the author. These could even be mailed to the author. It is always nice to have them discover other books an author has written. They can then compare the books, how they are alike and how they are different.

7. Elementary (4-6)

Have the students create a **Power Point Presentation** about small mammals. This is really nice after they have done their research!

Web Resources

- Matching Game: If **You Give A..**
 - www.mousecookiebooks.com/games/matching
 - Educational Games: If **You Give A..**
 - www.mousecookiebooks.com/games/edu
 -
- If **You Give a Mouse a Cookie**

If **You Give a Mouse a Cookie** printable activities and lesson ideas. ... The kids received their scholastic school book orders this week and the neighborhood was all a-buzz about...

- www.dltk-teach.com/books/mousecookie.html

- **If You Give a Mouse a Cookie...:: Lesson Plan, Activity, or Teaching ...**
My favorite book is one in a series by Numeroff. A to Z Teacher Stuff ~ Teacher Resources, Lesson Plans, Themes, Tips, Printables, and more
 - www.atozteacherstuff.com/pages/491.shtml

- **If you give a mouse a cookie - Literature-based Resources from ...**
If **you give a mouse a cookie**, literature-based resources, K-12 ... LESSON PLANS AND ACTIVITIES: Pattern Books by Raymond Bennett: Lesson Plan
 - www.kiddyhouse.com/Teachers/Literature/LMouse.html