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HAUNTED HOUSE, HAUNTED MOUSE

by Judy Cox

illustrated by Jeffrey Ebbeler

GRADES
K-3

About the Book

Mouse's ravenous appetite has gotten him into trouble again! On a dark and spooky night, he hitches a ride in a trick-or-treat sack, hoping to get some Halloween candy for himself. But after taking a tumble and getting caught in the rain, Mouse finds shelter in a creaky old house. The house is full of scary sounds, but lucky for Mouse, a trail of candy guides him safely home to his hidey-hole.

SUGGESTED CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES

Language Arts

Vocabulary—This book is an excellent read-aloud. Before reading, it might be good to review some of the words used in the text to assure that students understand them. Some words to discuss are: abandoned, flitted, gnawed, gully washer, noshed, roiled, and staggered.

Fiction vs. nonfiction—Mouse lives in a clock and wears clothes, and he thinks like a person. He even talks near the end of the story. Discuss with the students whether real mice do these things, and introduce the term “fiction” to represent a story that is not true and comes from an author’s imagination. Discuss also if there are any similarities between Mouse and real mice. Having a selection of nonfiction books about mice would be helpful in making the distinction between fiction and nonfiction on the same subject.

Dealing with fear—Mouse was able to deal with his fear in the (seemingly) haunted house. Discuss with the students what he did. How did he get the courage to say “BOO!”? How does having the correct information help us to not be afraid? Give students an opportunity to talk about times they were scared and what they did to make the situation better.

Candy—Students can create their own illustrated lists of favorite candies. Are they the same or different from the ones Mouse found in the story? Which candy is their favorite? Why?

Costumes—Students can discuss which costumes they might like to wear for Halloween and why they are making those particular choices.

Further Reading—Students may also want to hear/read other books about Mouse and how he celebrates different holidays. *One Is a Feast for Mouse* introduces the character of Mouse and is a good read for the Thanksgiving season. Another book is *Cinco de Mouse-O!*, which deals with Cinco de Mayo. They can then compare and contrast the three stories: How are they alike? How are they different?

Social Science

Halloween—Variations of this holiday are celebrated in many places. Students may want to know of some of the other customs practiced around the world. They also may be interested in knowing about the history of trick-or-treating and the various Halloween symbols such as bats, cats, cobwebs, costumes, ghosts, goblins, haunted houses, jack-o'-lanterns, skeletons, and witches, etc. See “Online Resources” on the reverse for links to further information. Students can create an illustrated glossary of the symbols.

Online Resources

www.halloween.com/all-about-halloween/category/halloween-symbols/

Presents a wealth of links to information on everything related to Halloween, including a long explanation of trick-or-treating and other Halloween traditions and symbols throughout the world.

www.suite101.com/content/mouse-lesson-plan-with-preschool-activities-a328277

Presents suggestions of various activities to help young children understand mice and how they live.

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. 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*. His paintings for the second book about Mouse, *Cinco de Mouse-O!*, were called "feisty" and "refreshing" in a starred review in *Kirkus Reviews*. He plays the trumpet and drums, and Jeff lives with his wife and twin daughters in Cincinnati, Ohio. Check out his website at www.jeffillustration.com.

The Mouse Stories

by Judy Cox, illustrated by Jeffrey Ebbeler

ONE IS A FEAST FOR MOUSE

HC: 978-0-8234-1977-7

PB: 978-0-8234-2231-9

"A wonderful holiday read-aloud."—*School Library Journal*

CINCO DE MOUSE-O!

HC: 978-0-8234-2194-7

PB: 978-0-8234-2328-6

"Children, parents, teachers and librarians will want to follow [Mouse] from one celebration to the next."—*Kirkus Reviews*

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