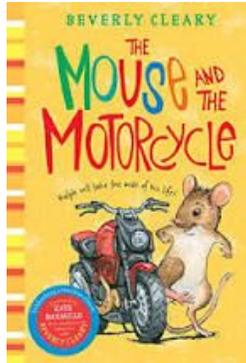


The Mouse and the Motorcycle

By Beverly Cleary

Book Discussion and Activities



Discussion Questions:

1. What are your general thoughts about the book? Any favorite parts?
2. What does Ralph's mother worry about? Why doesn't Ralph listen to his mother?
3. When Keith discovers Ralph, he finds they can understand each other. Why? Why do you think Keith likes Ralph? Do you think Keith would have liked Ralph if he were a cockroach or another hotel pest?
4. Keith thinks Ralph is lucky because he can ride a motorcycle, and Keith isn't allowed to yet. Do some of your friends have toys or things they are allowed to have that you can't? Would you lend your favorite toy to a friend like Keith did? Why or why not?
5. Ralph's mother believes motorcycles are dangerous. Think of a few things that can make riding a motorcycle (or even a bike) safer.
6. How does Ralph feel when he loses Keith's motorcycle? What could he have done to prevent this mishap? How would you react if a friend lost or broke a toy of yours?
7. Ralph's family loves room service. What would you order for breakfast if you were at the Mountain View Inn?
8. How does the hotel discover there are mice living there? What do you think will happen to the mice?



Wadsworth Public Library

9. Keith is in a hurry to grow up. Are you? What are some grown-up things you wish you could do now?
10. What was Ralph's plan to find an aspirin for Keith? What obstacles did he have along the way?
11. When Ralph is captured by the teachers, they call him cunning. What does cunning mean? What words would you use to describe Ralph? (curious, adventurous, disobedient, happy, creative, kind...)
12. Why does Keith tell Ralph he can keep the motorcycle? What do you think will happen after this story (some children will predict, others will know having read the sequels...)

Extension Activities:

1. Plot a course. Plan a trip for the Gridley family. Use a map of the US to plot the course, plan stops at attractions along the way. Develop an itinerary, bring some travel books to look through to plan the trip. Have maps of the US printed and plot the course.
2. Talk about the parts of a motorcycle. Talk about Motorcycle safety.
3. Design the Ultimate Motorcycle. Write an ad to sell the motorcycle. Make it sound appealing and refer to descriptions in the book.

Ideas taken from

https://books.google.com/books?id=rocOM4Kly6EC&printsec=frontcover&source=gbs_ge_summary_r&cad=0#v=onepage&q&f=false