

# Silly the Seed

## READING SILLY THE SEED

### OBJECTIVE

To ask and answer questions about Silly the Seed in order to deepen the students' insight and perspective.

### SKILLS

Describe how characters in a story respond to major events and challenges, make logical inferences, analyze how and why individuals interact, describe how words and phrases (e.g., regular beats, alliteration, rhymes, repeated lines) supply rhythm and meaning in a story.

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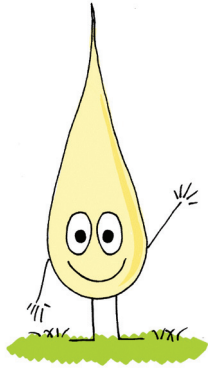
Following is a list of questions for teachers and/or parents to discuss before, during and after reading *SILLY THE SEED*.

### QUESTIONS TO BE ASKED BEFORE READING

- What does a flower need in order to grow?  
(Possible answers: water, sunlight, warmth/heat, soil/dirt, nutrients, vitamins, space, time, love.)
- 
- Why do clouds rain? Why does it rain?
- 
- Do you like rain? Why or why not?
- 
- Is rain good or bad? Is rain important? Why or why not?
- 
- What would happen if it never rained?
- 
- Are there places in the world where it rains more or less often?
- 
- What kinds of activities can you do when it rains?
- 
- What kinds of activities can't you do when it rains?
- 
- Why do people help other people?
- 
- Do animals help other animals? If yes, why? Give examples.
- 
- Do animals help people? Why?  
(Give examples: Seeing Eye dogs, dolphins saving people from sharks, St. Bernard dogs, dogs barking when their owner has been injured, etc.)



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### QUESTIONS TO BE ASKED WHILE READING

(These are questions to be asked before turning certain pages. For example, when the cloud rains on Silly, before turning the page, ask students, "What happens when a seed gets rained on?")

- • Can you make a silly face? Show the class.
- 
- • Why is the worm afraid of the dark?
- 
- • What's unusual about the way the worm says, "Thanks a lot!"
- 
- • Where did the worm go after Silly saved him?
- 
- • Where did the bug go after Silly saved him?
- 
- • What happens when a cloud turns gray?
- 
- • What happens when a seed gets rained on?
- 
- • What do you think Silly is going to turn into?

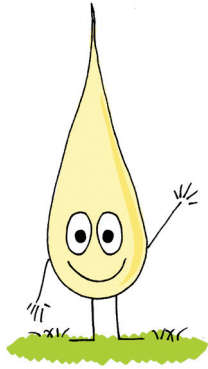
### QUESTIONS TO BE ASKED AFTER READING

- • Why did Silly's parents name him Silly?
- (Possible answers: a) because he's silly. b) because they liked the name. c) because they couldn't think of anything better.)
- 
- • What does the word 'silly' mean?
- 
- • What are some synonyms for the word 'silly'?
- 
- • What are some antonyms for the word 'silly'?
- 
- • Do you think Silly is a special seed? Why or why not?
- 
- • Silly "walked along thinking about the wonderful day". Why was the day wonderful?
- Do you agree that the day was wonderful?
- 
- • How would you describe a wonderful day?
- (Possible exercise: Have students draw a picture of a "wonderful" day.)
- 
- • Why does Silly keep making the silly face? Is his silly face funny? Why or why not?
- 
- 
- 



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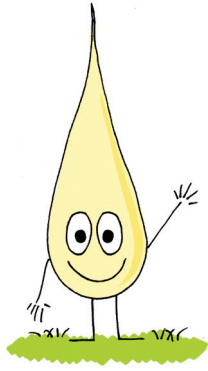
## READING SILLY THE SEED

- How did Silly know there was a worm under the rock?
- 
- How does Silly help the worm?
- 
- Why does Silly help the worm?
- 
- In what other ways could Silly have helped the worm?
- 
- What would have happened to the worm if Silly hadn't saved him?
- 
- How did the worm end up getting caught?
- (Possible exercise: Write and illustrate a story about how the worm got trapped under the rock.)
- 
- What did the worm say to his family/friends when they asked where he'd been?
- (Possible exercise: Write a story and draw pictures about where the worm went and what he said to his friends and family when they asked why he was late for lunch.)
- 
- Are you afraid of the dark? Why or why not?
- 
- What, if anything, are you afraid of? Why?
- 
- How did the bug end up getting stuck in the spider web?
- (Possible exercise: Write and illustrate a story about how the bug got caught.)
- 
- What did the bug say to his family/friends when they wondered where he'd been?
- (Possible exercise: Write a story and draw pictures about where the bug went and what he said to his friends and family when they asked why he was late for lunch.)
- 
- How did Silly know there was a bug in the tree's trunk?
- 
- How does Silly help the bug?
- 
- Why does Silly help the bug?
- 
- What would have happened to the bug if Silly hadn't freed him?
- 
- Do you like spiders? What about spider webs? Why or why not?
- 
- Who helps Silly after he falls in the hole?
- 
- How does the cloud help Silly?
- 
- Why do you think the cloud rains on Silly?
- 
- How does the rain help Silly?
- 



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- • What would you have done if you had been there to help Silly?  
•
- • If Silly hadn't helped the worm and the bug, do you think the cloud would have rained on him?  
•
- • Silly grows up to be a beautiful flower. If he hadn't helped the worm and the bug, what do you think he'd have grown up to be?  
•
- • What type of flower does Silly grow up to be?  
•
- • Now that he's a flower, how does Silly's life change? Does he still help other creatures? If yes, what kind of creatures does Silly help?  
•
- • Which character is your favorite: the worm, the bug, the cloud, or Silly? Why?  
•
- • Which character in the book transforms, and how does he change?  
•
- • Can you think of any other transformations that occur in nature?  
(For example: caterpillars become butterflies; tadpoles turn into frogs)  
•
- • In your opinion, is Silly the Seed more a poem or a story? Can it be both?  
• Why do or don't you think so?  
•
- • What effect does the repeated stanza "So with a smile on his face Silly went on his way and walked along thinking about the wonderful day" give the story?



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