

## ***Hop Goes to School* Resource Material**

### ***Hop Goes to School* Overview**

*Hop Goes to School* is a 32-page fiction picture book with 275 words.

The book is designed to be read aloud to pre-readers (ages 1-6).

Emerging readers (ages 4-7) will enjoy reading independently.

**Genre:** preschool picture book

**Synopsis:** *Hop Goes to School* tells the story of Elsie and her stuffed bunny, Hop. Everywhere that Elsie goes, Hop goes, too. When school starts, Elsie expects to take Hop along, but Mom says bunnies don't go to school. When Elsie gets a chance to fill the classroom's Secret Sack, she finally figures out a way to bring Hop to school.

*Hop Goes to School* is written in a simple, repetitive style that appeals to the youngest learners. Engaging watercolor artwork helps bring the story to life. *Hop Goes to School* is the perfect read for a child preparing to start school.

**Key Words:** friend, bunny, rabbit, school, days of week, comfort object

The following ages provide additional resources for extended learning. The suggested questions and topics can be used to help guide classroom discussions, homeschool learning, and/or family discussion.

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### A. Social/Emotional Learning

- **Friendship**

1. Do you have a stuffed friend who is very special to you?
2. What is your friend's name? How long have you had that friend?
3. What do you like to do with your friend?
4. Where do you like to take your friend?
5. Have you ever taken your friend to school?
6. Do you ever wish you could take your friend to school?
7. If you could, what would you do with your friend at school?

- **Obedience**

1. In what way does Elsie try to disobey?
2. Does she eventually do the right thing?
3. Have you ever disobeyed? How does that make you feel?
4. What would you do if you were Elsie? Why?

- **Emotions**

1. How does Elsie feel about Hop?
2. Why is she excited about school?
3. How does Elsie feel when Mom says Hop can't come to school?
4. How does Elsie feel when she gets to fill the Secret Sack?
5. Why does that make her feel happy?
6. At the end, does Elsie obey or disobey when she takes Hop to school?

### B. Literary Elements

- **Characters**

1. Who are the main characters in the story? Can you name them?  
(*Elsie, Mom, Hop, Teacher*)
2. Who are the other characters?  
(*her classmates*)

- **Plot**

1. What is the problem in the story?  
(*Elsie wants to take Hop to school, and Mom says no.*)
2. How is the problem solved?  
(*The teacher gives Elsie permission to bring an object to school.*)
3. What is the resolution to the problem?  
(*Elsie brings Hop to school in the Secret Sack.*)

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- **Setting**
  1. Can you name all the different settings in the story?  
(*Elsie's house, Elsie's yard, neighborhood pool, school*)
  2. Which setting is used most often?
  
- **Theme**
  1. What is the main idea of the story?  
(*Sometimes life gives you an opportunity to do something you want to do.*)

### **C. Elements of Grammar and Reading**

1. **Rhyming** - *small, tall, all*  
(ask for other words that rhyme with these words)
  
2. **Nouns** - explain that a *noun* is a word that names an object.  
Read through the story again and ask the children to find words that name an object: Focus on the pages where Elsie fills her backpack, fills her lunchbox, and gets dressed. There are many nouns on those pages: *notebook, pencil, crayon box, sandwich, apple, cookie, shirt, shorts, socks*. Children might also name *tree, pool, clues, tent, chair, table, backpack, clock, swim suit, sunglasses, desk, nametag*.
  
3. **Capitalization** - Names begin with an uppercase letter: *Mom, Elsie, Hop*
  
4. **Punctuation** - Quotation marks go around the words that Mom says, the words that Elsie says, and the words that the teacher says.
  
5. **Alphabet** - point out the alphabet on the cover. Have the children recite the alphabet. Ask each child to point out the letter that begins their name; Hop's name; Elsie's name.

### **D. Cultural Literacy**

1. **Days of the Week** -Six days of the week - Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday - appear in the story. Help children to learn these names in the correct order. Ask if they know which day of the week is missing?
  
2. **Classroom decorum** - Compare the classroom in this book with the readers' own classroom. What is the same? What is different? Desks? Carpet? White board? The children?

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### **E. Extend the Learning**

1. Ask the children to tell or draw a picture of what they think Elsie and Hop did on Saturday, since that day is not in the book. Have them write SATURDAY at the top of the picture.
2. Ask the children to draw a picture of them doing something with their favorite stuffed friend. Elsie sat in the swing, blew bubbles, went swimming, played in a tent, and caught fireflies. What would the reader do with their friend?
3. Offer the children a chance to do a Secret Sack activity where they hide an object inside and then write three clues for their classmates to guess.
4. Host a “Bring your Friend to School” day. Let the children write name tags for their special friends and plan special activities that the kids can do with their friends. This can be an all-day activity; if you prefer a shortened activity held at the end of the school day, friends can stay in the backpacks until needed. The next day, the children can write a simple book about the activity. Their story can have their friend’s name in the title: \_\_\_\_\_ *Goes to School*. Then the children can draw pictures and maybe even write simple sentences about what they did with their friends.