

SUMMER ACCORDING TO HUMPHREY

TEACHERS GUIDE

When Humphrey hears that school is ending, he panics. School ends? What's a classroom hamster to do if he's not in school? But as it turns out, there's something thrilling in store: going to Camp Happy Hollow with Ms. Mac and lots of the kids from Room 26! Camper Humphrey meets a friendly wild mouse, tracks down Og when he gets lost by the lake, and uses his wily charm to help kids adjust to cabin life and make new friends.

Questions for Discussion

- Why is Humphrey unhappy about summer vacation? Do you feel sad or happy when it's time for a break from school? What are some things you look forward to about not being in school? What are some of the things that you miss?
- Why is Humphrey worried about going to the camp and being in the wild? What experiences does he have over the course of the story that change the way he feels? How does Humphrey react to things in the wild at first? Have you ever felt worried about something and then have your feelings about it change?
- Why do you think Gail looks so upset when she arrives at camp? How does she deal with her feelings? Why might the things she's doing, like writing to her friend at home and talking about her parents, not be helpful? How does Humphrey help her to change the way she looks at camp? How could you be like Humphrey and help someone who's having a difficult time?
- Why do you think Brad acts the way he does? What are some reasons that someone might have a bad attitude? How does Humphrey help Brad's attitude change? What might you do in a similar situation?
- Sayeh is troubled about the way the campers are interacting—why do you think they became so competitive? Can it be good to be competitive? When might it be a bad thing? What does Sayeh end up doing that allows her to have lots of fun with all her friends? Can you think of any other ways in which she and the other campers could do things to be less competitive?
- What are the ideas that the different teams have about how to win? Do you think the campers have some good ideas? What ends up working and what doesn't? What are some of the skills you have that would help a team?
- Humphrey and Goldenrod are very similar in a lot of ways, but Humphrey is a pet and Goldenrod is wild—how might some animals be better suited to being pets? Are some animals better suited to being in the wild? How would you protect a pet?
- What does Humphrey do to save Og? How does he feel about what he does? Have you ever done something scary to help a friend?



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Activities for the Classroom

- Mrs. Brisbane writes report cards for Humphrey and Og for the end of school and at the end of camp, all the campers get awards! If you were going to get a report card or award like the ones described in the book, what do you think yours would say? What would you write for your friends?
- Set up your own Nature Center—use the information from the book to get ideas about the types of things that you can learn about. Instead of getting real animals for the nature center, research some local animals and put up pictures and information about how you would take care of them?
- What are the knots that the campers learn how to tie? Find out what those knots look like and how to make them—have a knot-tying race with your friends or try to beat your own time!
- In groups, plan out a funny skit like the ones the campers put on and perform for your classmates or friends! You can use the ones from the book, ones you might know from camp, or make up something new!
- Research different types of frogs and figure out all the surprising sounds that frogs can make! Try looking at <http://www.exploratorium.edu/frogs/links.html> as a good place to start your online research.

