



**ROBYN REPORTS:
THE NUTTY NEIGHBORHOOD BLOCK PARTY**

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A Story From Hot Topics Hot Serials

Teacher's Guide



Chapter Three: Missing in Action

Summary:

An animal is missing from the petting zoo. Robyn and Roxanne help look for it. Robyn begins looking through Mrs. Peterson's petunia patch.

Getting Ready to Read/Predicting:

What kinds of animals do your students think might be found in the neighborhood petting zoo? What kinds of pets have they seen in their neighborhood? Which animal is most likely to be the one that got away?

Vocabulary Words or Phrases:

Have the students find each word in the chapter and define it in context. They should look up any unfamiliar word in a dictionary and use it in a sentence.

disturbs
rounds
ferret
shrub
towers

Comprehension Check:

1. Why is Robyn worried about Roxanne's crying?
If Roxanne cries, it will be loud and everyone will be disturbed.
2. What animals are found in the petting zoo?
There are dogs, cats, hamsters, fish, rabbits, two birds and even a ferret.
3. Which animal is missing and why doesn't Robyn like those?
A lizard is missing. Robyn thinks that lizards are like snakes and she does not like snakes.
4. Why is Mrs. Peterson annoyed with Robyn? How does Robyn solve that problem?
Mrs. Peterson finds Robyn in her petunia patch and that bothers her. Robyn tells Mrs. Peterson that she is considering doing a story about the petunias.

Newspaper Activity:

Robyn dislikes lizards and snakes, but she's doing a story on one. Do your students think that reporters are interested in the topics of all stories they write? Ask students to imagine that they are reporters for your local newspaper. Have them choose a story from today's paper that they would be most interested in writing about, and then choose a story they would be least interested in. They should write a paragraph explaining each of their choices.

Writing Prompt:

Robyn told Mrs. Peterson a little fib about the reason why she was in the petunias. Perhaps she was trying to keep herself out of trouble, or perhaps she didn't want to scare Mrs. Peterson with the news that there was a lizard in the flowers. Either way, is it all

right to lie, ever? Ask students to write a paragraph giving their views on lying and when it might be permissible, if ever.

Daily Edit:

Here is a paragraph from this story that is not punctuated or punctuated incorrectly. There may also be spelling errors. Have your students copy it and correct it as needed. They can self-check by looking at the printed copy in the newspaper.

The neighborhood petting zoo is one of the most popular events of the block party. Anyone can bring a pet. I see J.P.'s little sister Allison. She's holding their cat, Buster. They are in Crazy cat Corner. I look around the yard to see the other animals. There are dogs, cats, hamsters, fish, rabbits, two birds, and even a ferret. I can see how an animal could go missing. This backyard is ... well ... it's like a zoo.

Learning standards:

values clarification, writing persuasively, constructing paragraphs