

one mitten

by Kristine O'Connell George
Illustrated by Maggie Smith
Clarion Books Ages 3 to 7

TEACHER'S GUIDE



What can you do with only one mitten? Use your imagination!

This bright, playful book celebrates a child's discovery of the many things she can do with a single mitten. And when she finally finds the mitten's missing mate, *two* mittens open up a whole new realm of possibilities!

Pre-reading

1. What stories, songs, or poems can students name that include mittens?
2. Predict why the book is titled, ONE MITTEN?
3. What would students do with a single mitten?

Post-reading

1. Have the students ever lost or misplaced something? What happened?
2. What games have students played with familiar objects, using them in alternative ways? Coat hanger? Pots and pans?
3. What other ideas do students have for using a single mitten?

ACROSS THE CURRICULUM

Language Arts

- Find the rhyming words in ONE MITTEN and think of other words that also rhyme.
- Pretend you are a mitten and write a daily diary. Where did you go? What did you do and see during the day?
- Pretend a favorite mitten is lost. Write a letter to your missing mitten.

Art and Music

- Draw/ design a building using a mitten-design as the template.
- Create art using a sponge cut in a mitten shape.
- In ONE MITTEN, the little girl makes "shadow shapes" with her mitten. Experiment with making shadow shapes using your hands (with or without a mitten!) and a flashlight.
- Sing songs and do finger plays featuring mittens. Do the "Mitten Hokey Pokey." [See author's site for links to mitten-y songs and activities!]

Interpersonal

- Create a paper mitten for each student in the class. Pass each mitten around and have students write something complimentary on each student's mitten. Mittens can make us feel "warm" in more than one way!
- Bake and decorate mitten-shaped cookies.

Mathematics

- Have students bring mittens to school and create graphs by mitten colors.
- Use a mitten as a unit of measurement to calculate distances around the classroom. How many mittens in a foot? A yard?
- Have students estimate how many skeins of yarn are needed to knit a single mitten. How can they verify their estimations?
- Ask an experienced knitter to show students the math involved in knitting: calculating yarn needed, counting stitches, patterning, etc.

Social Studies

- Investigate what it would take to get mittens to market. Supplies? Production? Distribution?

NOTE: See author's site for links to mitten-themed curriculum activities:

www.kristinegeorge.com/one_mitten_teachers_guide.html

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THE ONE MITTEN IMAGINATION CHALLENGE TEACHER'S GUIDE



Art © 2004 Maggie Smith

ONE MITTEN celebrates the power of the imagination and shows how the simplest object can be a springboard to creativity.

What would *you* do with one mitten?

Invite your students to share their own ideas as to what they would do with a single mitten. Collect their ideas informally in a group discussion or participate in the:

THE ONE MITTEN IMAGINATION CHALLENGE

(Learn more at: www.kristinegeorge.com/one_mitten_imagination_challenge.html)

Encourage Creativity

1. Invite students to pretend they are from another planet. They have never seen a mitten before. *What is it? What does it do?*
2. Tell students that the author spent *weeks* thinking about ways to use a single mitten as she was writing ONE MITTEN.
3. Allow students ample time to respond with their own ideas of what they'd do with one mitten. You may want to extend their "thinking time" for a day or so. (Our imaginations often surprise us with ideas at unexpected times; we need to allow time for our subconscious to work.)
3. Pass some mittens around for students to "study" while they're thinking of their ideas.
4. Honor and celebrate *all* ideas! Discuss the concept of "scaffolding" – the way ideas are built upon one another. Discuss how a single simple idea can be the "seed" for a more complex idea and how hearing others' ideas may "spark" our own creativity.

The Internet Project

1. Check the web site periodically to see the ideas students from across the country have contributed. Student entries posted at: http://www.kristinegeorge.com/one_mitten_imagination_challenge_responses.html.
2. Using push pins or paper flags to mark locations on a map corresponding to the locations of other schools, libraries, or bookstores that have contributed ideas to The One Mitten Imagination Challenge.
3. Have students create a list of the ideas they like best, and categorize them as silliest, most useful, most surprising, etc.
4. Count how many *different* ideas were generated by a single classroom, or even an entire school.
5. Tour the author's site www.kristinegeorge.com. Discover what inspired her to write ONE MITTEN at: www.kristinegeorge.com/one_mitten_imagination_challenge.html)
6. Peek into Maggie Smith's studio as she's creating art for ONE MITTEN: www.maggiebooks.com.