CHALLENGE ACTIVITIES FOR

Animal Adventures
1. The Pig and I  

**Goal:** Write your own story based on *The Sleeping Pig.*

**Materials:** Graphic Organizer Master 3, drawing paper and colored markers or crayons (optional)

**DAY 1**

**Planning Your Story**
- Provide children with nonfiction materials about farms and animals.
- Review with children the story map the class filled out for the anthology selection.
- Work with children to fill in the story map for their own story.

**DAY 2**

Children continue to work on this project.

**DAY 3**

**Writing Your Story**
- Tell children to begin their story with a sentence that gets the reader interested.
- Have children introduce the setting and characters first, then the problem, and then the events. The solution comes at the end.
- Tell them to use the word “I” so that it sounds like the story happened to them.
- Remind children that pictures can help the reader understand the story.

**DAY 4**

Children continue to work on this project.

**DAY 5**

**Sharing Your Story**
- Help children bind their stories into individual books.
- Allow each child to decide how best to share his or her story. Children may wish to read their stories aloud to a small group, compare stories with a classmate, do a picture walk, or display their stories for others to read.

**Expected Outcome**
- A good story will be interesting and make sense, move from beginning to middle to end, and include all five parts of a story.

**CH 6–1 Challenge Master Grade 1 Theme 6: Animal Adventures**
2. More About Animals 60 MINUTES  INDIVIDUAL

Materials: nonfiction books or articles about animals, index cards

Goal: Draw a picture of an animal with information about it.

- Provide children with nonfiction materials about different kinds of animals.
- Have children write four facts about the animal they picked on four index cards.

3. An Animal Story 60 MINUTES  INDIVIDUAL

Materials: Just a Little Bit by Ann Tompert or other books with animals as main characters, Graphic Organizer Master 3

Goal: Write an animal story.

Help children select two animal characters from two different stories to co-star in their original tale. Be sure children map out the problem, events, and solution before they begin to write.

Additional Independent Work

Connecting/Comparing Literature

Have children compare the On My Way Practice Reader Fox and Mule with the anthology selection The Sleeping Pig, using what they have learned about Story Structure. Children may discuss or write about their comparisons.

Other Activities

- TE p. T58, Challenge Words
- TE pp. R13, R15, R21, R27, Challenge
- Education Place: www.eduplace.com
  More activities related to The Sleeping Pig
- Accelerated Reader®, The Sleeping Pig

Try these animal adventures with your students!
1. Catching a Mouse  

**Goal:** Invent a mousetrap that catches mice without hurting them.

**DAY 1**

**Learning About Mice**
- Provide books with factual information about mice, such as *Mice* by Kevin J. Holmes, *Of Mice and Rats* by Allan Fowler, and *It's a Mouse!* by D. M. Souza.
- Tell children to make notes about mice on a chart or web.

**DAY 2**

Children continue to work on this project.

**DAY 3**

**Making a Mousetrap**
- Tell children to use what they learned about mice to invent a mousetrap.
- Have them draw a picture of their trap with labels and an explanation of how it works.
- Be sure children understand that their trap designs should be creative yet practical.

**DAY 4**

Children continue to work on this project.

**DAY 5**

**Sharing the Traps**
Hang children’s drawings together under a sign that says *Mousetrap Show.* Provide time for each child to describe his or her invention and explain how and why it works.
2. Spider Stories  60 MINUTES  INDIVIDUAL

**Materials:** books with spiders as main characters

**Goal:** Compare Anansi with a spider from another story.

Provide children with books like *Little Miss Spider at Sunnypatch School* by David Kirk, *Be Nice to Spiders* by Margaret Bloy Graham, and *The Lady and the Spider* by Faith McNulty. Be sure the books you provide are not Anansi books. Help children create and fill in their Venn diagrams.

3. Fishing Bears  60 MINUTES  INDIVIDUAL

*(Challenge Theme Paperback)*

**Materials:** Graphic Organizer Master 5, books or articles about bears such as *Brown Bears* by Lynn M. Stone, *Bears: Life in the Wild* by Monica Kulling, and *A Polar Bear Journey* by Debbie S. Miller

**Goal:** Complete a K-W-L chart to learn more about bears.

Help children complete K-W-L charts to access their prior knowledge about bears and set reading purposes. After they have read the book, point out that writing what they learned will help them remember it. Tell them to note facts that answer their questions on the third column of their K-W-L chart.

**Additional Independent Work**

**Connecting/Comparing Literature**

Have children compare the On My Way Practice Reader *What Animal Is It?* with the anthology selection *EEK! There’s a Mouse in the House*, using what they have learned about Noting Details. Children may discuss or write about their comparisons.

**Other Activities**

- Challenge Theme Paperback, *Fishing Bears*
- TE p. T140, Challenge Words
- TE pp. R17, R23, R29, Challenge
- Education Place: www.eduplace.com
- More activities related to *EEK! There’s a Mouse in the House*
- Accelerated Reader®, *EEK! There’s a Mouse in the House*
1. A Day in the Rainforest

| 120 MINUTES | INDIVIDUAL |

**Materials:** drawing paper, crayons or markers, stapler

**Goal:** Write a book about a rainforest animal.

**DAY 1**

**Learning About a Rainforest Animal**

Provide a collection of books about rainforest animals. Possible titles include *Rainforest Birds* by Bobbie Kalman, *Animals of the Rain Forest* by Steven Savage, and *Rainforest Babies* by Kathy Darling.

- Have each child choose one animal to focus on.
- Help children use a web to take notes. Tell them to place the name of their animal in the middle. Have them put their notes in the circles around the center.
- Tell children that their notes can be words or pictures.

**DAY 2**

Children continue to work on this project.

**DAY 3**

**Writing Your Book**

- Tell children to begin with a sentence that tells what animal they will describe.
- Have them write each fact from their web on a separate sheet of paper.
- Tell children to illustrate each fact on the same page where they wrote it.

**DAY 4**

Children continue to work on this project.

**DAY 5**

**Sharing Your Book**

- Have children make a cover with a picture of their animal and the title of the book.
- Bind the cover and pages of their book together with a stapler.
- Allow children to share their books with the class in the way that they like. Encourage children to look at all of the books made by their classmates.
2. Rainforest Poem  60 MINUTES  INDIVIDUAL

Problem: Write a poem about the rainforest.

Help me remember the images in Life in a Rainforest. Have them read Welcome to the Green House by Jane Yolen or a similar book to get further impressions of rainforests. Compile a list of rainforest words for children to use when they write their poems. Encourage children to include plant, animal, color, and sensory words on the list. Tell children that their poems should not rhyme, but they should sound interesting or beautiful.

3. What Will It Say?  60 MINUTES  INDIVIDUAL

Problem: Make predictions about a book.

Provide books that tell about specific kinds of animals, not limited to the rainforest.

Have children review the predictions they made for Red-Eyed Tree Frog before making predictions about their new book. Remind children that sometimes they predict what will happen next in a story. Tell them they can also use clues to predict what kind of facts they will learn in a book.

Additional Independent Work

Connecting/Comparing Literature

Have children compare the On My Way Practice Reader The Real Wolf with the anthology selection Red-Eyed Tree Frog, using what they have learned about Making Predictions. Children may discuss or write about their comparisons.

Other Activities

- TE p. T212, Challenge Words
- TE pp. R19, R25, R31, Challenge
- Education Place: www.eduplace.com
  More activities related to Red-Eyed Tree Frog
- Accelerated Reader®, Red-Eyed Tree Frog