



## **Holiday Mouse**



**Study Guide**  
Magik On-the-Road 2009-2010



## Summary

*Holiday Mouse* is Magik's holiday-themed adaptation of the classic tale *If You Give a Mouse a Cookie* by Laura Numeroff. In this special holiday version of the story, the boy is just settling down for the afternoon with a fresh batch of his mother's homemade cookies and the December issue of his favorite comic book when a very friendly and eager visitor arrives. The boy tries his best to accommodate the little mouse, offering her yummy cookies, hot cocoa, and numerous other holiday comforts to satisfy her every whim. Follow our characters as they decorate the boy's home for the holidays, re-enact the mouse king battle scene from *The Nutcracker*, wrap presents, make and give gifts, and think about what the holidays really mean to them.

## Discussion Questions



1. Who were the main characters in the story?
2. What problems did the mouse cause for the boy? Can you list them in order?
3. What holiday activities would you have asked the mouse to help you with?
4. How would you have felt if you were the boy? How would you have handled the mouse?
5. What sorts of activities do you and your family do to prepare for the holidays?
6. Have you ever caused problems like the mouse did? What did you do?
7. In what ways was the mouse a good visitor? In what ways was the boy a good host?
8. In what ways was the mouse a bad visitor? In what ways was the boy a bad host?
9. The boy suggests several different holiday songs and stories to the mouse. What is your favorite holiday song? What is your favorite holiday story?

(EL 110.2, 110.3, 110.4, 110.5, 110.6, 110.7)

## More Holiday Books

**The Polar Express** by Chris Van Allsburg

**Light the Lights! A Story about celebrating Hanukkah and Christmas** by Margaret Moorman

**Elijah's Angel** by Michael Rosen & Aminah Brenda Lynn Robinson

**A Wish to be a Christmas Tree** by Colleen Monroe

**Children Just Like Me: Celebrations!** by Anabel Kindersley & Barnabas Kindersley

**Light the Candle! Bang the Drum! A Book of Holidays from around the World** by Ann Morris & Peter Linenthal



## Holiday Classroom Activities

- Learn how to wrap a present!
- Make paper chains, an ornament, or paper snowflakes to decorate your classroom.
  - As a class, learn to sing holiday songs from around the world.
- Make up a special dance that tells a wonderful story using *The Nutcracker* or other holiday music.
  - Make cards for your family, friends, soldiers, children in hospitals or the elderly.
- Research holiday traditions in various cultures around the world! Share your findings with the class.

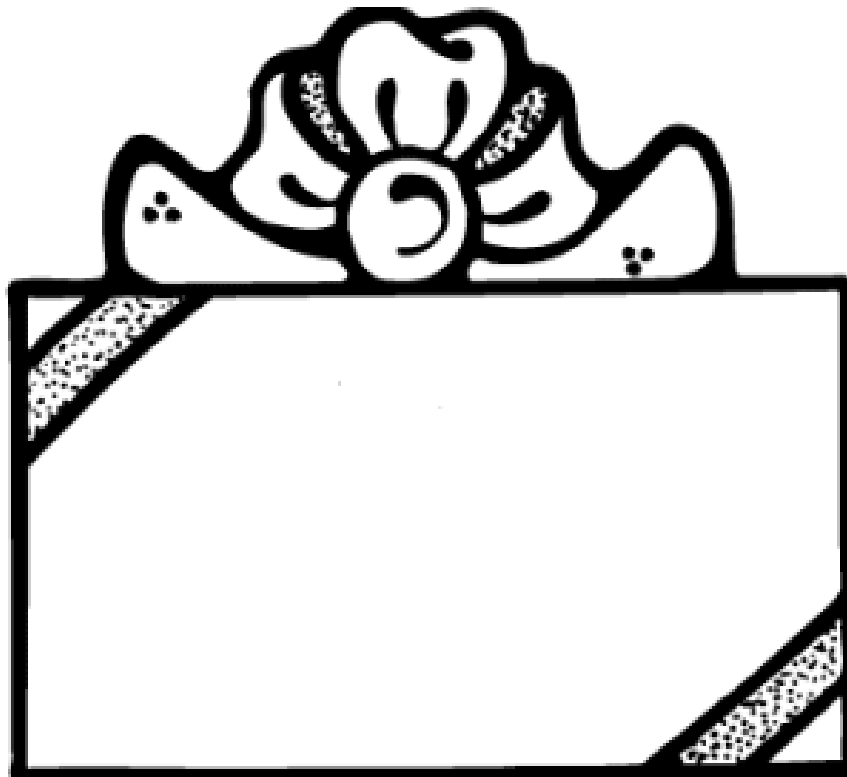
# Music & Dance – The Nutcracker



- Listen to music from *The Nutcracker*.
1. How does the music make you feel? Use 3 adjectives to describe the feeling each song in *The Nutcracker* gives you.
  2. Do you think music plays an important role in holidays and celebrations? Why or why not?
  3. How many of the Nutcracker songs have you heard before? Have you ever performed in or been to a performance of *The Nutcracker*?
- *The Nutcracker* is a ballet written by Pivotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky. The first performance of *The Nutcracker* took place on December 19, 1892. It was based off of a story called “The Nutcracker and the King of the Mice” by E.T.A. Hoffman. Tchaikovsky was a Russian composer who also wrote *Swan Lake* and *The Sleeping Beauty*. He composed for symphony, opera, and ballet.
1. What is a composer? Can you name 2 other famous composers? Can you name any of the songs they composed?
  2. How does dance make you feel? Do you think dance plays a role in holidays and celebration? Why or why not? What kind of dance do you like?

(MU 117.3, 117.6, 117.9, 117.12, 117.15, 117.18)

## Art – Draw & Decorate



If you wanted to give someone a special present, what would it be? Draw it in this gift box!

(AR 117.2, 117.5, 117.8, 117.11, 117.14, 117.17)

# Share with the Class

1. What do you think is the best thing about your favorite holiday?
2. What do the holidays mean to you?
3. What are some nice things you can do for others during the holidays?
4. Do you have any special holiday traditions or activities you do every year? What about special foods you get only at holiday time?



## Math Fun

1. The boy bought 3 different “JungleMan Beast-Master of the Amazon” comic book issues, his friend gave him 4 more, and his mom bought him 2 issues. How many comic books does he have?
2. The boy has a batch of 12 cookies. He eats 3 and the mouse eats 2. How many cookies does he have left to share with his classmates at school?
3. The boy has 24 crayons. The mouse puts the crayons into 4 groups. How many crayons are in each group?

(MA 111.12, 111.13, 111.14, 111.15, 111.16, 111.17)

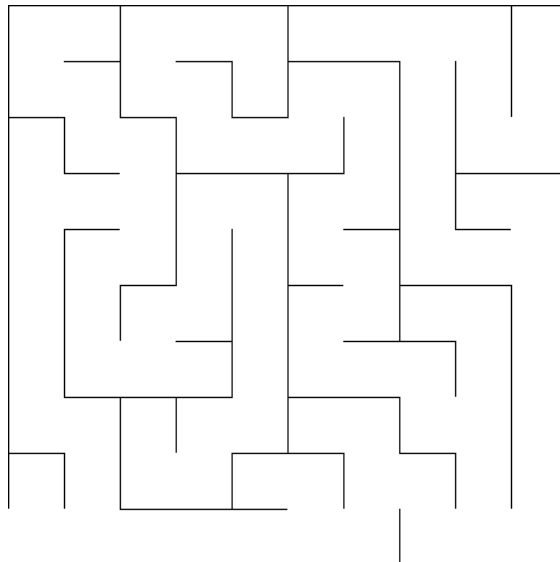


## Cookie Fun

- Have each student guess how many cookies they think are in a jar. The closest guess wins.
- Provide each student with an index card and ask them to think up a recipe for holiday cookies. If they had to make a batch, what would they put in it? How much of each ingredient would they use? What would they use to bake it, and for how long? Use the recipe cards to make a fun and interesting classroom cook book!
- Ask each student in the class what their favorite kind of cookie is. Graph the results.

## Maze Game

Oh no! The boy lost track of the mouse in his house! Who knows what that mouse could be up to! Help the boy find the mouse before she accidentally makes a mess while she helps him decorate!



## Did you know...?

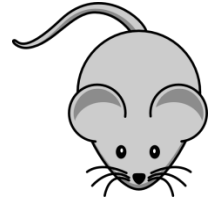
Mice like to eat 15 to 20 times a day...maybe that's why our mouse was so hungry for a cookie!



Mice are good jumpers, climbers and swimmers.

A mouse's tail can be as long as its whole body.

Mice cannot see the color red.



Mice often organize their homes into areas for food, sleeping and going to the bathroom.

The first mice in North America came as stowaways on ships from Europe.

Mice are nocturnal and can see best in dim light.

Sources: <http://www.pestworldforkids.org/mice.html> and <http://www.buzzle.com/articles/facts-about-mice.html>

(SC 112.2, 112.3, 112.4, 112.5, 112.6, 112.7)

Several TEKS (117.4, 117.7, 117.10, 117.13, 117.16, 117.19) are covered just by watching a Magik Theatre production, including:

- Identifying appropriate audience behavior
- Responding to and evaluating dramatic activities
- Identifying the use of music, creative movement, and visual components in a play
- Observing the performance of artists and identifying theatrical vocations

(TEKS Key: EL = English Language Arts/Reading, MA = Mathematics, SC = Science, SS = Social Studies, HE = Health Education, AR = Art, MU = Music, TH = Theatre, SLA = Spanish Language Arts)

Draw your favorite scene from *Holiday Mouse!*