



BOOK TITLE: **What's the Big Idea, Molly?**
AUTHOR: Valeri Gorbachev



SUMMARY OF BOOK: Molly and her friends want to do something special for Turtle's upcoming birthday, but Molly cannot seem to come up with any good ideas. All the friends want to give Turtle the same thing. They all think and think in their own ways until finally, Molly has a good idea and all the friends work together to make one special present for Turtle.

***BEFORE READING** (Ask questions and use what the child already knows to add to the discussion, assisting the child in understanding and enjoying the book):

Try questions such as these:

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| | might be about? Why? |
| 1. Look at the cover of the book together:
"What does it look like the mouse is doing? What do you think this book | 2. Page through the book together. "What animals are the characters in this book? How are they dressed?" |

DURING READING (ask these questions):

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| 1. Look at Molly's face and talk about her feelings: "What do you think she's feeling now?" What happens as the story progresses? | 3. "What is the problem with the friends' first idea?" |
| 2. Try to use different voices for the characters. "What kind of voice should Goose have? Frog?" | 4. "What are the different ways the friends choose to think things over? How do you get your best ideas?" |
| | 5. Have your child read the poems, getting a sense of the rhyme. |

AFTER READING (activity to extend book experience):

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| 1. Four pictures of a tree is actually the same problem as four pictures of a flower, but Molly came up with a creative solution. Next time your child encounters a problem, try "what idea might Molly think up?" | 2. Help your child think of a good idea for a friend's birthday. |
| | 3. Make a Four Seasons book with your child. Try using some other feature (lake, yard, fence, roof) to imagine what it looks like in each season. |

Compliments of:



* This activity created by students at the University of Alaska Anchorage.

For additional activities, visit www.AlaskalmaginationLibrary.org.

