

If You Give... Series Activities

Survey Says? After reading the If You Give... books with your students, use the books to explore the concepts of surveys, data, and graphs. Poll each of your students to find out which of the books is his or her favorite. Compile the data and share it with your students in a table format. As a class, convert the data first into a bar graph and then into a pie chart, labeling both graphs appropriately.

Your Vote Counts! Share all of the If You Give... books with the class. Assign each book to a small group of students and then have them prepare a campaign for their book. This can include making posters about their book, preparing a brief "campaign speech" touting their book, or creating oak tag buttons or bookmarks advertising their book. Then prepare a ballot and have students vote for their favorite book. Tally or graph the election results. Ask students if they were persuaded to choose a certain book, and discuss why they think the winning book was chosen.

If You Give a Mouse an Alphabet. Divide a large piece of poster board or paper into twenty-six sections and label each section alphabetically with a letter. Have students take turns coming up with words from any of the If You Give... books and write the words under their corresponding letters ("B" for *blackberry*, "M" for *mouse*, *moose*, etc.). Discuss the letters with the fewest and/or most words. The final product can be displayed or bound and put into the class library for future use.

Sweet Treats. Look up a recipe for a delicious snack on www.mousecookiebooks.com or in *Mouse Cookies & More: A Treasury*. Bring in a copy of the recipe, along with all the necessary ingredients and baking tools. In your school's cafeteria or kitchen, teach your students how to follow a recipe as you all make cupcakes, muffins, cookies, or pancakes together. Bon appétit!

Story Starters. Create a cookie-jar display in the classroom. On small papers shaped like cookies (or pancakes, muffins, cupcakes, or donuts), write creative writing ideas or topics. The children can reach in the cookie jar and pull ideas out if they are experiencing "writer's block." Some ideas could be: A mouse [pig, moose, cat, dog] would [not] make a great pet because...; My favorite meal would include...; If I were in charge at home, I would...; The best season of the year is... because...

If You Give... Have students describe the pattern author Laura Numeroff uses for the titles of the If You Give... series. Then have students brainstorm other titles that follow this pattern (for example, *If You Give a Bear a Banana*). Have pairs of students select one of these new titles and then compose and illustrate a story with this title.

