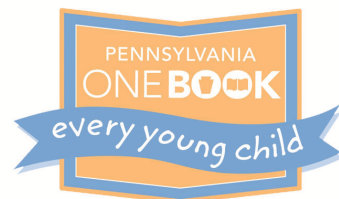


MY COUSIN MOMO

Zachariah O'Hora



One Book, Every Young Child

Spend some time with the children in your life and take part in Pennsylvania's **One Book, Every Young Child** early literacy initiative – an important statewide effort that encourages adults to share and talk about books and stories with children.

To learn more about this early literacy initiative, visit www.paonebook.org.

One Book, Every Young Child is made possible through a collaboration of the Pennsylvania Department of Education, Pennsylvania Department of Human Services, Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, The Carnegie Science Center, Pennsylvania Library Association, Pennsylvania Center for the Book, Pennsylvania's Promise for Children, Pennsylvania Association for the Education of Young Children and the Pennsylvania Child Care Association. This project is made possible by a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services as administered by the Pennsylvania Department of Education through the Office of Commonwealth Libraries.

Activities for My Cousin Momo Based on PA's Learning Standards for Early Childhood

Approaches to Learning

- Ask the children to reflect on a time that they were sad. What did your friends or family do to help you feel happy again? What can you do to help a friend or family member that is sad?
- Momo liked to do things differently than the other squirrels. Have children brainstorm and create a new game or activity that is different. Give children a chance to explain and play this game with other children.

Language and Literacy Development

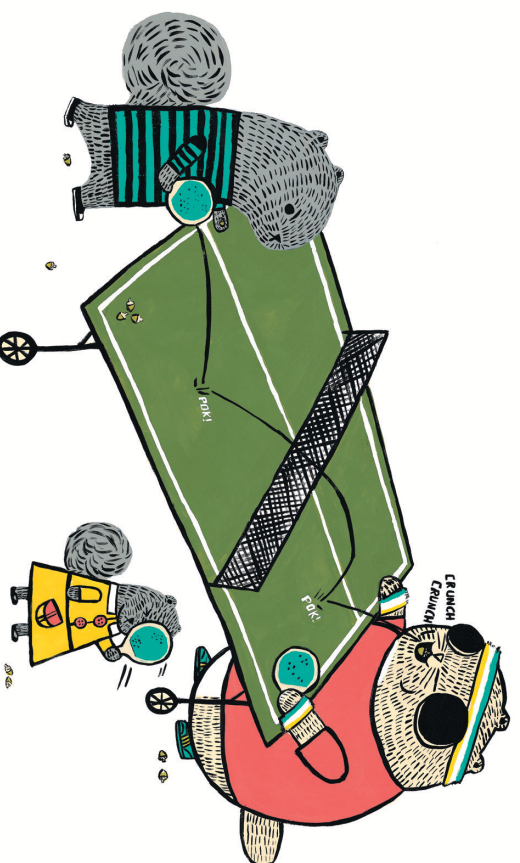
- After reading the story have children retell what happened including identifying the main characters. Allow children to draw and use illustrations to show understanding of the text. Have children then discuss the main idea of the text.
- Have children brainstorm different animals that they might find in nature. Where would you find these animals? Write this list down for children to see.

Mathematical Thinking and Expression

- Gather up acorns or other small objects from nature and have children practice counting up to the number 10 and using these as manipulatives. You may provide cups and other materials to help with counting and sorting.
- At the end of the story Momo's cousins are counting down the days on a calendar until they get to visit Momo. Have children look at a calendar and count how many days until the weekend or until a special event is taking place in your program.

Scientific Thinking

- Go on a nature walk and have children explore living and nonliving things. You can take pictures and collect items to bring back to the classroom to view through a magnifying glass like Momo.
- Momo is different from his cousins because he is a flying squirrel. Have children compare and contrast the similarities and differences between a squirrel and a flying squirrel. You can create a T chart to record the children's answers.



Social Studies Thinking

- Explore a map of your area or Pennsylvania. Chart on this map different locations that children in your classroom have visited. Have children discuss what was unique about the places they have visited.
- When Momo comes to visit things are different from at his home. Have children describe the characteristics of their "home." Encourage them to describe physical characteristics of their home and surroundings (e.g., basement, trees outside, playground, etc.).

Creative Thinking and Expression

- Have children act out and recreate a part of the story. Encourage children to use voice inflections and facial expressions. Have the children help and support each other when acting out their parts.
- Using a variety of textured materials have children create a tree house similar to the one where Momo stayed. Children can create a 2D or 3D representation of a tree house using any materials from around the classroom.

Health, Wellness and Physical Development

- Children can pretend to be flying squirrels and fly around outside! Prompt them with different instructions on how to fly around the playground.
- After reading how Momo likes to eat the acorns when playing acorn pong, discuss the importance of healthy food choices. Have children identify different kinds of healthy and unhealthy foods. Children can also classify these foods by their food groups (e.g., fruits, vegetables, dairy).

Social and Emotional Development

- Ask children to reflect on the different emotions Momo felt throughout the book. What emotions did he feel? Why do you think he felt that way?
- Momo liked to do things differently from the other squirrels and he felt left out. Have children discuss their likes and dislikes and demonstrate that everyone has individual personal traits and they should be proud of their own preferences.

Partnerships for Learning

- Hold a family night or weekend event that uses the activities provided in the PA One Book Fun Guide (paonebook.org) to engage parents and families.
- Share information with families about the importance of reading early and often to children to help support brain development. Encourage the family to sign up for a public library card and use the book My Cousin Momo as a common book to share with their children.

www.paonebook.org

