

## Classroom Connections & Additional Activities

1. Listen to music of recorded seashore sounds. Imagine you are at the seashore with Sam and Thomas. Talk about what you imagine. List the descriptive words students use. **MUSIC**
2. What is flummadiddle? Make up new words that mean moonshine. **LA**
3. Learn about the tides and the danger for Thomas as he went to the Blue Rock to look for a mermaid. **SCI**
4. Collect pictures of gerbils and other small pets for a pet collage. Compare gerbils and kangaroos. List differences and similarities. **ART** **SCI**
5. Borrow or buy a gerbil for the class to care for. **SCI**

## Sam, Bangs, and Moonshine

Evaline Ness  
1966  
New York: Holt, Rhinehart, Winston

### HONESTY

USA  
Reading Time: 10 minutes

#### CONCEPTS

Honesty  
Love

#### SUMMARY

In this classic story, Sam learns the difference between fantasy and truth when her tall tales (moonshine) put her young friend, Thomas, in danger. Ness's illustrations received the Caldecott Award for their perceptive interpretation of the text.

#### OBJECTIVE

The student will be able to define and discuss honesty and love as they apply to this story. The student will be able to tell the difference between truth and fiction, real and pretend.

# After the Story

## Sam, Bangs, and Moonshine

### DISCUSSION

1. In this story, what is moonshine? What were some of Sam's fantasies? What did Sam's father mean when he said, "Talk REAL not MOONSHINE?" What terrible thing happened because of moonshine?
2. How did Sam feel after she sent Thomas to Blue Rock? What did Sam do for Thomas at the end of the story? Why?
3. Sam's dad said that there is good moonshine and bad moonshine. What is the difference? When is it right to make up good moonshine? Honesty means telling the truth and not telling lies. How is pretending different from telling a lie?
4. What did you learn from the story? Share something that might be good moonshine.

### ACTIVITIES

1. Play the game, "Real or Moonshine." Children sit in a circle and take turns telling two things about themselves, one real and one moonshine. The next person guesses which is true and which is not.
2. Why did Sam's dad believe her when she said Thomas was on Blue Rock? How did she look and act? Make a list of feeling words to describe Sam's state of mind. Then make another list for how she felt when she gave the gerbil to Thomas. (Try to get beyond mad, sad, glad.)
3. Act out the end of the story. Thomas is in bed with laryngitis and Sam brings the gerbil. What might Sam and Thomas say to each other?
4. Make Honesty Badges. Design a badge with a motto, pledge or picture about honesty, such as "I try to be honest."

### WRAP-UP

In My Heartwood Journal draw a picture of someone you know who is honest. Dictate a sentence about your picture.

### EXTENSION

1. Ask someone at home what he/she liked to pretend as a child. Find out if "moonshine" ever got him/her in trouble.
2. Give "Honesty Badges" (See activity #4) to your family members and explain why you are giving them.
3. Send home the Heartwood Family Newsletter on Honesty.

### VOCABULARY

harbor  
chariot  
cargo  
menacing

torrents  
laryngitis