

Educator Page—November 2009

For teachers, media center staff, parents, children, and anyone else who'd like to gain even more value from Stories for Children Magazine

By: Claudette Hegel

"Birds in a Battle" (article)

Questions for thought and discussion:

1. How do you think people first learned pigeons return to their homes even if taken far away? Why do you think people started using the birds to send messages?
2. Would you like to be the soldier in charge of caring for homing pigeons? Why or why not?
3. What kinds of messages would you like to send with a homing pigeon?

Activity idea:

Send written messages to others using a "homing dog" that will go to others if called.

"Mystery of the Secret Name Taker" (story)

Questions for thought and discussion:

1. How would you try to discover who the secret name taker is?
2. Would you like to be a secret name taker? Why or why not?
3. How do you think the teacher kept her secret year after year?

Activity idea:

Pretend to be a secret name taker for one day. Write down everyone who misbehaves and what he or she did. You don't have to know their names, but describe them such as "A stranger in a blue car threw a cigarette butt out the window."

"Pleasant Dreams" (poem)

Questions for thought and discussion:

1. What keeps you from falling asleep? What helps you fall asleep faster?
2. What do you like most about nighttime? The least?
3. What's the subject of your most pleasant dreams? Which of your dreams are the most unpleasant?

Activity idea:

Draw a night scene on a piece of black construction paper (either white or colored chalk works well). Using a pin, carefully put holes in the paper where stars should be. Hold the picture up to a light to see the stars shine.