

Educator Page—October 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

“How to Train a Flea and Other Fascinating Facts About Flea Circuses” (article)

*Questions for thought and discussion:*

1. How do you think the first person to have a flea circus thought of the idea?
2. What would you name a flea circus you owned? Why?
3. For what circus act would you most like to train a flea? Why?

*Activity idea:*

According to the article, fleas are able to pull more than a thousand times their weight and jump the human equivalent of a thousand feet. Experiment to see how much you are able to pull and how far you can jump.

“A Voice in the Night” (story)

*Questions for thought and discussion:*

1. If you were in a house with unusual sounds coming from behind a closed door, what would you think they were? What would you do to find out?
2. Would you most like to visit a dinosaur museum, attend a baseball game, or go to a movie? Why?
3. If a caged pet were the only kind you could have, what kind would you choose? Why?

*Activity idea:*

Select three different kinds of caged animals and/or birds and research them to decide which you'd most like to have.

“Fright in the Night” (poem)

*Questions for thought and discussion:*

1. Would you have investigated the strange sound? Why or why not?
2. Why do you think the narrator used a flashlight instead of turning on the lights?
3. What song(s) do you think a cat would like to play on the piano? Examples: “The Cat Came Back” and Al Stewart’s “The Year of the Cat.”

*Activity idea:*

Try to make a piano sound as if a cat is walking across the keys. Are you able to make the notes sound pleasing enough to be a song?