



# ON A MAGICAL DO-NOTHING DAY

BY BEATRICE ALEMAGNA

## ABOUT THE BOOK

All I want to do on a rainy day like today is play my game. My mom says it's a waste of time, but without my game, nothing is fun! On the other hand, maybe I'm wrong about that . . .

From award-winning illustrator Beatrice Alemagna comes a compelling, magical picture book with whimsical, stunning art and heartfelt, charming text.

## STORYTIME ACTIVITIES

- **TAKE A WALK ON THE WILD SIDE:** Take the children on a nature walk outside; if this is not possible, ask them to take a nature walk on their own. Ask them to use their senses as they explore the outdoors. What did they see? Touch? Smell? Hear? Discuss their outdoor experience, and then have the children create a painting illustrating their adventure.
- **RIGHT AS RAIN:** Discuss with the children different activities they can do on a rainy day (e.g., playing games indoors or jumping in puddles outside). Ask them to think about what rain sounds like, and how the world looks on a rainy day. Then have each child write a poem about rain. Young children can write a class poem with you and then draw pictures to match the poem. Older children can write and illustrate their own rainy day poem.
- **CITY OR COUNTRY?:** Make a T-chart and discuss with the class the pros and cons of living in the city vs. living in the country. Ask the children where they would prefer to live, and then hold a class vote. Give each child a large piece of paper and have them fold it in half. On one side, they should draw a picture showing life in the city, and on the other side, a picture of country life.
- **NAME OF THE GAME:** The child in this story is preoccupied with hunting down Martians in his video game. Divide the class into small groups and provide them with materials to design a game (e.g., large paper for a game board, dice or materials to make a spinner, or index cards). Have the groups teach their game to the rest of the class, and then have the groups rotate to play each other's games.
- **TO THE LETTER:** In this story, the child misses his father who must stay behind in the city. Ask the children to think of a friend or relative whom they don't get to see very often. Have them write a letter to that person, and mail it from school or home. If they receive a response, they can share it with the class.





# RIGHT AS RAIN

What do you like to do on a rainy day? Think about what rain sounds like, and how the world looks on a rainy day. Then write a poem about rain on the lines below.



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# CITY OR COUNTRY?

Which do you like better, the city or the country? Think about the pros and cons of living in the city vs. living in the country, and write them in the charts below.

## CITY

PROS

CONS

## COUNTRY

PROS

CONS

