

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_



# Activity One

**Beverly Cleary is the author of *The Mouse and the Motorcycle* and over 30 other books as well.**

**1.** What other books have you read that were written by Beverly Cleary?

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**2. a)** Which book would interest you more: a book about a girl called Ramona in *Ramona Quimby, Age 8*, or a boy called Leigh in *Dear Mr. Henshaw*?

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**b)** Did you make your choice because the story is about a girl? Or because it is about a boy?

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**c)** Which title caught your eye? Why?

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**3.** Would you prefer to read a story about a tabby cat named Sock or another story about Ralph the Mouse? Give at least one reason for your answer.

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**4.** You have read a short article on Beverly Cleary. What information did you keep with you?

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**5. a)** If you could go out for lunch with Beverly Cleary, what would you like to tell her?

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**b)** What would you want to ask her?

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## Activity Two

**Keith and his family are traveling during the Fourth of July weekend. This is an important holiday in the United States because July Fourth is INDEPENDENCE DAY.**

How much do you know about Independence Day?  
Do some RESEARCH to find out why this is such a special holiday.

Here are some questions to get you started. Use an encyclopedia, the Internet, or books from the library to find the answers. Write your findings in a report.

### Questions to think about:

- Independence Day is America's birthday. What is the significance of this?
- From whom did the original American colonies declare their independence? When?
- Who is Thomas Jefferson?
- What happened in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania?
- When was Independence Day first observed as a holiday?
- Where is Independence Day celebrated now, and by whom?
- Why do you think it so important that America is an independent nation?
- What other countries celebrate their own Independence Day?

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# Activity Three



**Keith and his family are from the state of Ohio. They traveled through a number of states all the way to Nevada and then California. That's a long way!**

1. On a map of the United States draw a straight line from **Ohio** to **California**. Look at the other states that your line crosses. What other states could Keith and his family have driven through?
2. **Research:** What are some SIMILARITIES and DIFFERENCES between these three states? Think about their populations, weather and seasons, agriculture, and flags.

### Similarities

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### Differences

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3. Do you live in Ohio, Nevada or California? Have you ever visited any of these states?

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4. Which state would you like to visit? Why?

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5. How would you get there from your home?

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6. How is this state the same or different from where you live?

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# Activity Four

Ralph and Keith love motorcycles! Keith is too young and small to ride a real motorcycle so he plays with a small toy motorcycle. Ralph, on the other hand, is just the right size to fit on Keith's toy motorcycle.

1. Why do you think both boys love motorcycles so much?

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2. Do you think girls can like motorcycles as much as some boys do? Why or why not?

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3. Motorcycles can be a lot of fun to ride. But they can be dangerous, too. List **three safety rules** that are important to follow when riding on a motorcycle.

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4. Motorcycles and ATVs (all terrain vehicles) are both popular sports vehicles. How are they **different** from each other? Think about what they look like and how they can be used.

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5. Write a short paragraph telling about some interesting motorcycle **facts**. You will have to do some research to find your information.

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# Activity Five

Keith is sick in bed and he has a fever. Everyone is on the hunt for an aspirin.

1. What is an aspirin?

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2. Have you ever taken an aspirin before? Why or not?

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3. When can it **beneficial** to take aspirin or a similar medication?

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4. When can it **dangerous** to take aspirin or a medication like it?

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5. What well-known company makes aspirin?

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6. List some other medications that you know of.

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7. Every bottle of medication has a label. What **very important information** is on the label? Try to think of three things.

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8. Why is it always important to **read the label** before taking any medication?

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## Activity Six

The novel, The Mouse and the Motorcycle is about family and relationships. Every family has an interesting history. Our ancestors would have lots of stories to tell us if they were alive today! How much do you know about your family's history or your ancestors?

1. Write down your **family name** (your last name): \_\_\_\_\_
2. What is the **origin** of your family name? Where does it come from?  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. Chances are that your family has not always lived in the country that you live in now. Find out if this is true. If it is, write down **when** the first person in your family arrived in your country.  
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4. Who was this person? What is their relationship to you (for example, your great-great-grandmother)?  
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5. In which city or town, and which state or province did he or she first settle?  
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6. From which country, and which continent did this person come?  
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7. What reasons did this person have for leaving their home country?  
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8. What tradition does your family celebrate now that has been passed down from earlier generations?  
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9. When you grow up and have children of your own, what new tradition or celebration would you like to introduce to them?  
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