

Home Lesson and Activity Plan

Deputy Dorkface How Stinkville Got Cleaned Up

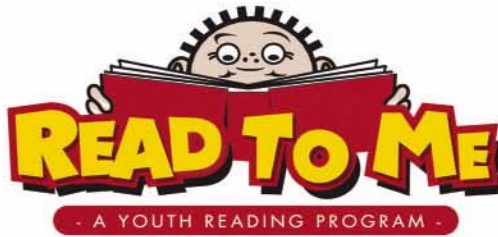
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Eldon Doty, Illustrator

Synopsis:

One morning in the Mojave Desert, a brother and sister set off on their horses to go for a ride. They discover a town called Stinkville in a valley with a very strange sign recommending that they stay out due to the smell. It turns out one day many years ago the town's deputy, while eating a peanut butter and jelly sandwich and drinking a glass of water, became covered with hives. He decided that the town's water must be bad and that he must protect the citizens by declaring the water off limits for everything, including bathing. When the two kids ride into town, the deputy and the townsfolk all appear, curious to see their first visitors in a very long time. The kids devise a "plan" to help the citizens of Stinkville. Their whispering infuriates the deputy. The kids soon rope him from both sides, spin and drag him through town into the lake. When he emerges he notices that he is not only clean, but that he is not covered in hives from the water. He announces that everyone may bathe and the townsfolk, along with all their animals even, jump into the lake and clean themselves. The children mount their horses and ride back home. Years later Deputy Darrel (his real name) discovers it was the peanut butter that he had been allergic to all along!

Words to define and discuss before reading the story:

parched
cantered
trotting
hives
reek
citizens
trespass
erupt



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Comprehension questions for use during/and or after reading:

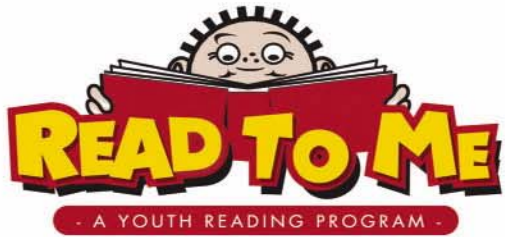
With students who are able, it is suggested that they write the answers to the questions, in complete sentences on their own piece of paper. Help the students to correctly incorporate wording from the question into their responses.

For example: Q: How many moons circle the planet Mars?

A: *The planet Mars has two moons that circle it.*

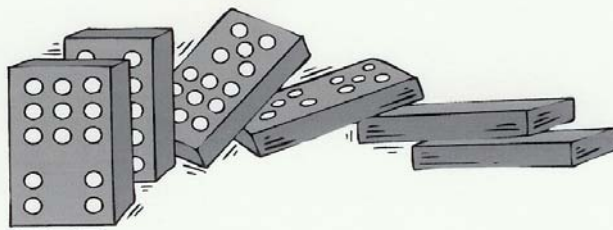
1. Can you look on a map of the United States and find which states the story of Deputy Dorkface could have taken place in?
2. Why did Taylor and Colin's mother tell them to go outside for the day?
3. When the kid saw the sign for Stinkville, why did tears come to their eyes?
4. Why do you think the children of Stinkville did not mind that they could not take a bath when the "proclamation" was first made?
5. What was the main cause for Deputy Dorkface developing the habit of shouting at people?
6. Why do you think that Taylor and Colin decided to force Deputy Dorkface into the lake? Would you have done the same thing? Why?
7. If you were Deputy Dorkface would you have ever ordered everybody in town not to drink or bathe in the water? What would you have done?
8. How much money would you need to spend to buy every mammal on pages 30 and 31 their own bar of soap?
9. Can you think of a time when you thought something happened because of something else, only later you found out you were wrong? Tell or write about it.

After reading the story and discussing and/or writing answers to the questions talk about the idea of cause and effect. Discuss the idea that things do not always happen for the reasons that we think they do. As an example, the misunderstanding of Deputy Dorkface and his automatic assumption that the water, and nothing else, is what caused his hives. Ask your child for examples of cause and effect that they can think of. Using copies of the cause and effect chart, have the students alone or in pairs or small groups, come up with other examples of things that cause (or effect) other things to happen.



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Cause	Effect

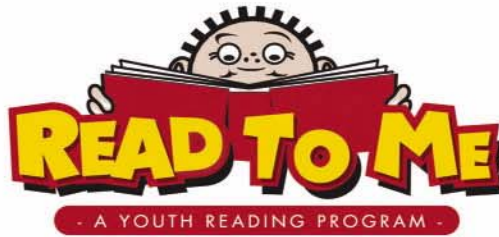


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There are probably many items in your kitchen that you can use to demonstrate cause and effect. You can mix different colored drops of food coloring in cups of water for example. You can also dissolve salt in water to cause the salt to disappear. Afterward, you can slowly boil the water to cause the salt to become visible again. You may also use examples such as putting bread in a toaster or frying eggs for breakfast. With any of these activities you can have your child chart what happens to the different items when they are subjected to a different event.