



Book and Box Inquiry
A Presentation Designed by E.A. Turner

SMART Family Literacy presents a book with a lead reader and enough copies of the book so that every child holds one before, during and after the reading.

A mystery box is a box wrapped like a present in brightly colored paper and with a bow on top. The box contains something related to the story. Everyone is encouraged to think about what is in the box before the reading and the contents are revealed following the reading.

BOOK TITLE: Cookie's Week/La Semana de Cookie
AUTHOR: Cindy Ward
ILLUSTRATOR: Tomie de Paola

TARGET AUDIENCE: Kindergarten or family audience

SYNOPSIS: Cookie is a curious cat who gets into a different type of mischief on each day of the week.

QUESTION: What is in the mystery box?
Hint: It is something you will see in the book, "Cookie's Week".

Ask for two volunteers from the audience to face the other members of the audience and hold the box. They can shake with your help to keep the lid on. (This is another hint, because I would not put a living thing inside and then ask you to shake the box. The thing inside is not alive.)

QUESTIONS BEFORE READING THE STORY:

Is the box heavy? Is it lighter than a brick? Is it heavier than a feather? How many items are in the box? Does it slide? Does it roll? Is it flat? Is it round? Do you hear it? What does that sound like? Do you smell it?

QUESTIONS AFTER READING THE STORY:

Show me the page that is the stinkiest or smelliest. (Some will show the garbage page and some will show the page with the cat in the toilet.) Show me the page that is the noisiest. (Pots and pans)

Do you think I have pots and pans inside the mystery box? Did it sound like pots and pans?
Do you think I have garbage inside the mystery box? Did it smell like garbage?

ANSWER: Open the box to reveal that a roll of toilet paper is inside the box. A roll of toilet paper is shaped like a cylinder. It's flat on two sides, but it is also round.

KEY WORD: Cylinder

INTEGRATE THE GARDEN:

One day, Cookie knocks a plant off the windowsill and there is dirt everywhere. The picture clearly shows a flower pot, dirt, and dirty footprints.

QUESTION: If you had to clean up after Cookie, would you know how to replant the flower in the pot?

The hands-on demonstration requires: flower pot, potting soil, spoon or trowel, a shard or seashell to cover the hole in the bottom of the flower pot, the plant and/or seeds, soap, water, paper towels. After planting, explain how to wash hands, singing "Happy Birthday" to know that you've kept the soap on your hands long enough to kill the germs.

INTEGRATE MATH: Calendar math with the days of the week; language that identifies parameters of weight, shape, number.

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