



# CLASSROOM ACTIVITY GUIDE

Grades 1–4

## About the Pee Wee Scouts

Welcome to the world of the Pee Wee Scouts. Weekly tasks and adventures organized by Mrs. Peters, the troop leader, are always exciting, but obstacles are usually waiting just around the corner. Molly, Rachel, Sonny, and the rest of the scouts learn what it means to be a friend, a teammate, a competitor, and a winner—all while lending a hand in their community. Follow the troop through these books and see for yourself what it means to be a real Pee Wee Scout.

## In the Classroom

Give your students the opportunity to learn and grow along with the Pee Wee Scouts. Your class is meant to work as a team, and the lessons included in this guide teach students why that is so important. They will learn the value of friendship, teamwork, and community service, as well as conflict resolution strategies that really work. Guide your students towards becoming a team that they can be proud of!





# ABOUT THE BOOKS



## Cookies and Crutches

Two very important tasks face the Pee Wee Scouts, and there are badges at stake. The cookie-baking challenge leads to inedible creations, and the ice skating party results in an injury for Molly. With all of this competition, how can the scouts work together to help one of their own?

PB: 978-0-440-40010-3 (0-440-40010-4)

## Camp Ghost-Away

The Pee Wee Scouts are going camping! After raising the money and making the long bus trip, adventures await them at the campsite. They need to stick together and help each other in order to make it through the night. But only one scout emerges as the true hero, and she has the badge to prove it.

PB: 978-0-440-40062-2 (0-440-40062-7)

## Lucky Dog Days

The Pee Wee Scouts are excited to participate in Help-a-Pet Month. After taking a trip to the animal shelter, the scouts decide to hold a rummage sale to raise money that will help the animals. But the rummage sale, along with a few good ideas from Molly, raises more than just money. The scouts get a few surprises that they weren't expecting.

PB: 978-0-440-40063-9 (0-440-40063-5)

## Blue Skies, French Fries

They say winning isn't everything, but Molly and the Pee Wee Scouts aren't so sure. When the scouts are faced with a Pee Wee soccer game against another troop, they have to consider the meaning of team spirit, teamwork, and good sportsmanship. Will the troop pull together in time for the big game?

PB: 978-0-440-40064-6 (0-440-40064-3)

## Grumpy Pumpkins

It is Halloween and the Pee Wee Scouts have big plans. They are going to make costumes, pick their own pumpkins, and then carve them. They are also having their Halloween party at the local nursing home, where Molly's grumpy grandfather lives. She fears that this Halloween will be a night to remember. And that it is!

PB: 978-0-440-40065-3 (0-440-40065-1)

## Peanut-Butter Pilgrims

Thanksgiving is here, and the Pee Wee Scouts are hard at work. After taking a trip to a local turkey farm, the scouts have a new pet and a new attitude towards their Thanksgiving dinner. And with their Thanksgiving play just days away, Molly is hoping that she can remember her lines so that she doesn't disappoint her troop and embarrass herself in front of the whole town!

PB: 978-0-440-40066-0 (0-440-40066-X)

## Bad, Bad Bunnies

It is a busy week for the Pee Wee Scouts—Easter and Fire Prevention Week. While the scouts spend time dyeing and hunting for eggs, they are also on the lookout for fire hazards. There are prizes to win and badges to earn, and Molly gets caught up in two good deeds that save lives and friendships.

PB: 978-0-440-40278-7 (0-440-40278-6)



## Healthy Eating: Food Pyramids

The Pee Wee Scouts certainly love to eat! They bring food to their scout meetings, throw parties for their families and friends, and donate canned and fresh food to the homeless. But is all of this food healthy? Use this list of foods from the Pee Wee Scouts series to determine what is healthy and what is not. Consult the USDA Food Pyramid for help. Try having your students keep a daily food journal, so that they can keep track of the healthy foods that they eat!

anchovies	cornflakes	hot dogs	peanut butter
beans	crackers	Jell-O	pork
bread	cranberries	jellybeans	potato salad
butter	cream cheese	lemonade	pumpkin pie
cake	cupcakes	maple syrup	root beer
candy corn	donuts	marshmallows	soda
caramel apples	eggs	milk	spinach
cheese	french fries	nuts	stuffing
chocolate chips	grapefruit	oatmeal	turkey
coffee	gravy	olives	vegetables
cookies	hamburgers	orange juice	whipped cream
corn	hot chocolate	pancakes	

After reading **PEANUT-BUTTER PILGRIMS**, have students redesign the Pee Wee's thanksgiving dinner so that they are eating a balanced meal.

## Teamwork: Many Hands Make Light Work

The Pee Wee Scouts might argue and bicker at times, but at the end of the day, they come together and work as a team. Teamwork is a major theme throughout this series, and a very important part of making a classroom work. Use the motto "Many Hands Make Light Work" from **LUCKY DOG DAYS** in your classroom and try some of these teamwork activities with your students.

- Create a weekly job chart and assign each student a job to help keep the classroom clean and organized. Have your students create the list of jobs that they believe to be most important for a successful classroom.
- Bake cookies by creating an assembly line of ingredients. Each student adds one ingredient to the bowl before passing it to the next student. The final product will be a delicious example of teamwork!
- Write a class story line by line. Decide on a topic and using chart paper, ask one student to write the first sentence of a story. Then ask another student to continue the story with a second sentence. Continue until each student has written one sentence. Then read aloud and enjoy!
- Ask your students to form a line in order of birth date—youngest to oldest by day, month, and year—without speaking. They will need to figure out alternate methods of communicating with each other and working together.





## Group Unity: Just Like the Pee Wee Scouts

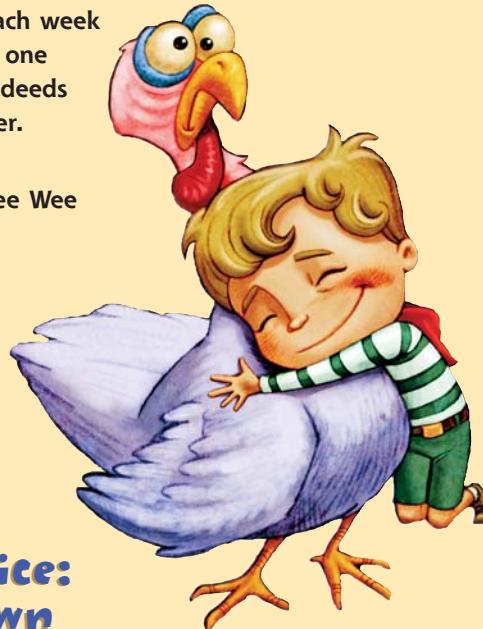
The Pee Wees have a regular routine at each of their Scout meetings; they discuss the good deeds that they did that week and recite the Pee Wee Scout pledge. This helps promote togetherness and a sense of responsibility to the community. Have students refer to **BAD, BAD BUNNIES** to see a meeting in action.

Make this a regular routine in your classroom. Assign one day each week for class meetings and ask each student to be prepared to share one good deed they did during the week. Write each of these good deeds on a strip of construction paper, and link all of the strips together.

Hang this "Chain of Good Deeds" around the room!

End your weekly meetings by reciting your own version of the Pee Wee Scout pledge. Stand in a circle and join hands.

We love our country  
And our home,  
Our school  
and neighbors too.  
As (your class name)  
We pledge our best  
In everything we do.



## Community Service: Around the Town

Helping the local community and supporting those in need is an important part of being a Pee Wee Scout, and a valuable lesson to teach children. Follow the example that the Pee Wee Scouts have set and organize similar community service activities with your class.

- After reading **GRUMPY PUMPKINS**, plan holiday visits to a local nursing home (Valentine's Day, Halloween, Christmas, Easter, etc.). Sing songs, bring crafts, or write stories to read aloud to the residents. Put a smile on someone's face!
- After reading **LUCKY DOG DAYS**, hold a fundraiser and donate the money to the ASPCA or a local animal shelter. Sell homemade treats and crafts, or hold a concert filled with songs and dances all about animals.
- After reading **BAD, BAD BUNNIES**, research the National Fire Prevention Association and participate in Fire Prevention Week. Take a tour of your school and identify emergency exits, smoke alarms, and sprinklers. Make a map to post in each classroom. Hold an assembly to demonstrate fire safety procedures and how to identify fire hazards.
- After reading **PEANUT-BUTTER PILGRIMS**, organize a canned food drive during the Thanksgiving holiday. Bring the donated food to a local shelter and have your students stay to serve the residents their Thanksgiving meal.
- After reading **CAMP GHOST-AWAY**, take a nature hike. Research plants, animals, berries, and rocks so that you can identify them along the way. Try adopting a local park and visit it often to clean up garbage, plant new trees, and lead nature hikes.



## How-To Writing: Learn Something New

The Pee Wee Scouts are always learning. They are open to new scout experiences, and therefore acquire a number of new skills. Mrs. Peters, their scout leader, introduces a new activity in each book that leads to the adventures that the Pee Wee Scouts encounter.

Here are some examples of new skills that were learned in the books:

- How to play soccer in **BLUE SKIES, FRENCH FRIES**
- How to care for the environment in **CAMP GHOST-AWAY**
- How to bake cookies in **COOKIES AND CRUTCHES**
- How to ice skate in **COOKIES AND CRUTCHES**
- How to carve a pumpkin in **GRUMPY PUMPKINS**
- How to spot a fire hazard in **LUCKY DOG DAYS**
- How to dye Easter eggs in **BAD, BAD BUNNIES**
- How to weave baskets in **PEANUT-BUTTER PILGRIMS**

Give your students an opportunity to learn a new skill. Ask each student what he/she is good at—cooking, sports, games, crafts, etc. Then have them write a how-to guide for that activity. They can present their final step-by-step guide to the class along with a demonstration of the activity. Allow students a chance to try one of their classmates' activities and learn something new!



## Plot Analysis: Story Walk

While each of the Pee Wee Scout books is unique in its subject matter, they all follow the same basic plot structure. In the beginning, the scouts are given a task to complete. In the middle, Molly fears that she might fail at the task and the troop struggles to work together. But in the end, Molly succeeds and comes out on top, and the troop comes together to work as a team and completes the task.

Examine this plot structure in each of the books with your class. Then have your students write the next book in the Pee Wee Scout series according to this basic plot structure. They can create a story walk, illustrating events from the beginning, middle, and end of their story. Allow the students to share their new books with the class.

## Character Study: Character Map

Rachel, Molly, and Sonny are dramatic characters that get lots of attention from the other Pee Wee Scouts. They are each unique, but also share similar qualities that allow them to work together.

Split your class into three groups, and assign each group one of these characters—Rachel, Molly, or Sonny. Ask each group to create a character map for their character on a large sheet of chart paper. They should first draw a picture of their character in the center and then surround that picture with five personality traits along with examples from the books. Each group can share their character map with the class. Try to find similar qualities among all of the character maps!



## Good Sportsmanship: Earn Your Badge

The Pee Wee Scouts love to compete. They participate in different troop contests in order to earn praise and badges. A little friendly competition can be good, but the scouts often take it too far. They finally learn how to be proud of themselves and their friends, even if they don't win or they need a little help to succeed. Try some of these classroom contests to teach the value of good sportsmanship, and refer to **BLUE SKY, FRENCH FRIES** to see what strategies the Pee Wee Scouts use.

- Hold a Pee Wee Scouts cover art contest, where each child can redesign the cover of one of the books. The winner of the best cover will receive the "Cover Art Badge."
- Give an unexpected fact quiz—addition, subtraction, multiplication, or division. Have all students stand at their desks, and ask each one a math fact. If they are incorrect, they sit in their seats. Continue around the room until only one student is left standing. The winner will receive the "Math Wiz Badge."
- Keep a book chart that shows how many books each student reads in a month. Award the student who reads the most books in one month the "Book Worm Badge."
- Elect a class president by asking students to write a speech explaining why they would be best for the job. Students can recite their speech for the class and then hold a vote. Award the winner the "Class President Badge."



## Writing Activity: Role Models

The Pee Wee Scouts are successful in their goals because of the assistance from the adults around them. They rely on these adults to support their ideas, keep them safe, and guide them towards friendship and teamwork. Some of the adults that have been invaluable to the Pee Wee Scouts and their adventures are:

- Mrs. Peters, the scout leader in all the books
- Mr. Peters, the soccer coach in **BLUE SKIES, FRENCH FRIES**
- Louise Betz, Sonny's mom in various books
- Mrs. Martin, the nursing home nurse in **GRUMPY PUMPKINS**
- Miss Penn, the head of the animal shelter in **LUCKY DOG DAYS**
- Mrs. Noble, a donor to the rummage sale in **LUCKY DOG DAYS**
- Larry Stone, the fire chief in **BAD, BAD BUNNIES**
- Mrs. Atkins, the turkey farm owner in **PEANUT-BUTTER PILGRIMS**

Have a discussion with your class about the meaning of an adult role model—someone they rely on, trust, and admire. Ask them to write an essay, letter, or speech that describes their own role model. Then host a "Special Friends Day" in your classroom and invite all of the role models to attend. Have each student read their writing aloud for their role model and all of the others to enjoy!