



# True or Make-Believe

## Introduction

*The Mouse and the Meadow* is written in the style called “creative non-fiction”—the story is based on facts presented through a creative storyline. In this activity for young children, students determine what is true (a fact) and what is make-believe (fiction).

## Materials Needed

- ◆ The book *The Mouse and the Meadow*

## Key Concepts

- ◆ Fiction is an entertaining, make-believe story that is not real
- ◆ Non-fiction is true information that gives you facts to explain something.
- ◆ Creative non-fiction combines both facts and fiction.

## Procedure

1. Read the story *The Mouse and the Meadow*.
2. Review the terms: fact, fiction, real, and make-believe. Explain to students that in this story, some of the information is true (fact), and some of it make-believe (fiction). For example, animals can't really talk; that's make-believe. However, a snake will grab a mouse to eat; that's true.
3. Read the book again, having students first identify the “facts” and then identify the “make-believe” elements in each stanza.
4. Ask students what challenges the meadow mouse faced during his first day in the meadow. List these challenges on the board. Ask students if the challenges are true in the natural world or if are make-believe?

## Nature Connections

- ◆ Have students read about an animal and write 3 statements about it. Two of the statements should be true, and one should be make believe. Have them share their statements with another student, who tries to identify which statement isn't true.
- ◆ Identify which of the animals mentioned in the story live in your area. Learn more about them.

## Additional Resources

- ◆ Discover facts about more animals that live in a meadow.
- ◆ <http://www.exploringnature.org/db/detail.php?dbID=44&detID=568>
- ◆ Get fun, interesting, and weird facts about a variety of animals to share with your students at these websites:
- ◆ <http://www.sciencekids.co.nz/sciencefacts/animals.html>
- ◆ <http://www.globalanimal.org/2011/09/28/15-weird-animal-facts/>
- ◆ <http://www.interestinganimalsforkids.com/>