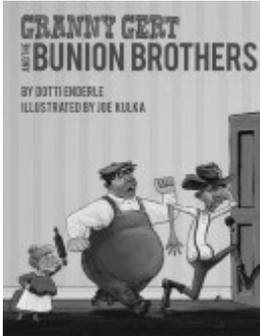


ACTIVITY GUIDE



Granny Gert and the Bunion Brothers

Written by Dotti Enderle
Illustrated by Joe Kulka
(Pelican Publishing)

Pre-reading

Look at the cover only. Judging by the expression on Granny's face, does she look happy? Angry? Scared? What about the Bunion Brothers?

What's Granny holding? What is the real purpose of a rolling pin?

Do the Bunion Brothers look like brothers? What are their similarities? Differences?

Why do you think the Bunion Brothers are running? What can you guess about the story before hearing it?

Whose house do you think they're running through?

Language Arts

Who chased the Bunion Brothers out of Amarillo? Where do you think the dog came from?

Granny tells the boys she needs someone to clean her privy. What is a privy? Do people still use them? What does this tell you about the setting? Are they in the present or past? Do you think Granny has a computer?

Granny threatens to sic Mad Dog on the Bunion Brothers. Did you guess what kind of animal Mad Dog was before hearing the end?

What is the conflict between Buck and Buddy. What do they both want?

While cleaning the privy, Buck has something on his nose. What do you think it is?
What is the primary use for clothes pins?

Buddy and Buck Bunion play the banjo. How do they play it? Do they take turns?

After cleaning the privy, the Bunion Brothers whitewash the fence. What does whitewashing mean?

How does Granny feel about the Bunion Brothers courting Starla? Is she happy about it? Angry?

Granny tells the Bunion Brothers that blood is thicker than water. What do you think that means?

Did seeing Mad Dog surprise you? Why do you think the Bunion Brothers were frightened of him? Would you have been afraid?

Math

How many signs do you see posted throughout the book?

What is the shape that's carved into the privy door? Can you find other crescent shapes in the book?

Starla and Scarlett are twins. What are twins? What are triplets? Quadruplets?

How many times do these items appear in the book:

Banjo
Mad Dog
Privy
Boots
Chickens

Science

Discuss why do Starla and Scarlett look exactly alike, but Buddy and Buck look different? Could Starla and Scarlett be different ages?

"Your singing is so sour it pickled the cucumbers!" What happens to cucumbers when they've been pickled? Can other vegetables be pickled?

Music

Write a tune to the songs that the Bunion Brothers sing to Starla and Scarlett.

Art Project

Shoe box Banjo

Materials:

Four rubber bands of various thickness

Plastic or cardboard shoebox

A wooden ruler

Stretch four rubber bands around the long direction of the plastic or cardboard shoebox. Place the ruler under the rubber bands to make a bridge. Pluck each of the rubber bands in turn and to play.

Granny Gert's Lemonade Pie

- **4 cups vanilla ice cream, softened**
- **6 oz. can frozen lemonade concentrate, thawed**
- **1 9" graham cracker crust**

In medium bowl, mix ice cream and lemonade concentrate until blended. Immediately spoon into graham cracker crust. Freeze at least 4 hours until firm. Let stand at room temperature for a few minutes before cutting. Serves 8.

