



A TEACHER'S GUIDE FOR APPLEBAUM'S GARAGE

This teacher's guide is designed to assist you in creating talking points and ideas for classroom activities in conjunction with school visits.



**APPLEBAUM'S
GARAGE**
by Karen Lynn Williams

THEMES IN THIS BOOK

- Recycling/Inventions

Mr. Applebaum is a collector. He saves everything and recycles it and uses it for inventions. He is creative and imaginative. What are some of the things Jeremy creates? What satisfaction do Jeremy and Mr. Applebaum receive from creating with recycled junk?

- Lying/Stealing

Robbie shop lifts and lies but Jeremy has some secrets too and he knows about Robbie's shoplifting. How does he handle this? What would you do in this situation? When does hiding something or keeping a secret turn into lying? If you see someone do something wrong when is it your responsibility to report it?

- Friendship

Robbie is Jeremy's best friend but he begins hanging out with other kids, a group Jeremy does not feel comfortable with. Have you ever had this problem? What did you do about it? Jeremy knows his friend is shoplifting but he does not want to be a tattletale. Did he do the right thing?

- Intergenerational Relationships

One of Jeremy's best friends in this story is Mr. Applebaum. Why do you think Jeremy enjoys "hanging out" with his older neighbor? Do you think Mr. Applebaum enjoys Jeremy's company? Have you ever been friends with an older person who was not a member of your family?



*Karen's grandfather was the
inspiration for this story.*



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SUBJECT AREAS IDEAS

- Language Arts

Writing Directions: design an invention like Jeremy's mouse trap. Write a step-by-step set of instructions for building it. Writing an Interview: Interview an older person in your community. Write out the questions. Write up the interview. Personal experience: Write up an experience you have had with a friend or an older person or with lying and stealing. Essay: Some of the issues that Jeremy has to deal with in the story have to do with ethics. What is ethics? What are the ethical issues in the story

- Science (Mice, recycling, inventions)

Jeremy tries to save the mouse in the house from being trapped. Research mice. What kind of mouse was most likely living in Jeremy's house? What do they eat? What are their habits? Jeremy likes to invent things. With Mr. Applebaum he builds a new mouse trap. Try designing your own mousetrap. Or think of another problem you could solve with an invention made from recycled items. Recycling is good for the environment. Why? Participate in a recycling project for your school or community.

- Art

Collect interesting discarded items. Build a sculpture. Title it. What is the theme of your sculpture?

- History

Get to know an older person in your community. Interview him or her. Where are they from? How was your community different when they were growing up? What kinds of things did they enjoy when they were your age?



Saving, collecting and recycling materials like this are a theme in this book.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Karen Williams is available to speak and share her stories on this and many of her other books. Please visit www.karenlynnwilliams.com for more information on the books and other information about Karen.