

The Big Orange Splot

By Daniel Manus Pinkwater

When a seagull drops a big orange splot of paint on Mr. Plumbean's roof, the neighbors implore him to repaint the house so the street will once again look neat. Instead, Mr. Plumbean paints his house outlandish colors so it looks just like his dreams. His neighbors are outraged—until they talk to Mr. Plumbean. Then they decide to paint their houses as well.

ideas contributed by Cindy Hoying, Centerville, OH



Six Houses on the Street

Reviewing story events

After the read-aloud, review the story events by having students perform this action song!

(sung to the tune of “Five Green and Speckled Frogs”)

Six houses, very neat.
Six houses on the street.
Six houses, plain as they could be. (Ooh-wee!)
One day there was a splot.
That man, he thought a lot.
Now five sit neatly on the street.

Hold up six fingers.

Look sad.
Clap hands on “splot.”
Tap head.
Hold up five fingers.

Five houses, very neat.
Five houses on the street.
Five houses, plain as they could be. (Ooh-wee!)
Each owner said, “I see,”
“How nice a dream can be.”
No more sit neatly on the street.

Hold up five fingers.

Look sad.
Point to eyes.
Arms out, hands up.
Shake head.

My Dream House

Extending a story through art

Mr. Plumbean said that his house “looks like all of his dreams.” Youngsters create their own dream houses with this colorful idea! Provide simple construction paper house cutouts at your art center along with a variety of writing utensils, paints, and collage items. Encourage students to create their dream house just like Mr. Plumbean did. Display the finished projects in a row so they resemble the neighborhood from the story.

