

Family Reunion

Buster makes home videos for the Reads and for a new Kurdish friend.



EPISODE 135
Nashville, Tennessee

TOPICS/THEMES
Family
Cultural traditions

FUNCTIONAL LANGUAGE
Giving commands
Come on! Hurry up!
Make sure you...
Now get closer! No, closer!
Give it back! Come back!

CONTENT LANGUAGE
Family: aunt, uncle, cousin, grandpa, grandmother, family reunion, family picnic, memories, relatives
Culture: community, customs, Muslim, Allah, mosque

RECOMMENDED BOOKS
Family, Familia by Diane Gonzalez Bertrand;
The Relatives Came by Cynthia Rylant

Introduce

Build Background. In Nashville, Buster meets a Kurdish family who has emigrated from Iraq. On a world map, have students trace the family's route from Iraq to Tennessee.

Ask, *Why might people leave Iraq and come to the United States?*

Family Times. Arthur comes to Nashville for a family reunion. His family holds a picnic in the park where the Kurdish community is also having a picnic. Buster videotapes both events. Ask, *Does your family have picnics? Family reunions? Where and when do you have them? What do you usually do?* As they watch the episode, students can look for similarities and differences.

View and View Again

Compare Cultures. (See activity tips, page 7.) Pause the video and ask: *What do you know about Barin's family? What languages are spoken? What kinds of clothing are worn? How is religion part of the household? When is the New Year celebrated?*

Act It Out! (See activity tips, page 7.) Replay the scene where D.W. tries to take over Buster's camera at the skating rink. Provide a simple prop for a video camera and let pairs of children act out the scene. Have others act out a contrasting scene showing cooperation.

Extend and Make Connections

Picnic Time. Have students plan activities and refreshments for a class picnic. (A three-legged race might be fun!) Different groups can create a shopping list, an invitation, and a list of materials needed for the activities. Enjoy the picnic!

Alien Adventure

Buster goes saving in Carlsbad Caverns and sees a UFO (well, maybe) in Roswell.



EPISODE 136
Roswell, New Mexico

TOPICS/THEMES
UFOs
Nature/Geography: caves

FUNCTIONAL LANGUAGE
Expressing amazement
You won't believe what I saw.
Can you believe...?
Are you kidding?
Did you see that?
It's all true!

CONTENT LANGUAGE:
Mysteries: supernatural, UFO, alien, encounter, spaceship, investigate
Caverns: cave, bats, spelunking, stalagmites, stalactites

RECOMMENDED BOOKS
Amazing Bats by Frank Greenaway;
Company's Coming by Arthur Yorinks

Introduce

Alien Encounters. Buster is very interested in spaceships and aliens (creatures from other planets). Write and discuss the term UFO (Unidentified Flying Object). Invite students to share their views about UFOs, spaceships, and stories of alien encounters.

Caves and Caverns. Buster's dad is very interested in caves. What would students bring with them to explore a deep cave? What do they imagine the cave would be like?

View and View Again

Say It Again. (See activity tips, page 7) Try saying the phrases in various dramatic ways: *It's all true!* and *the strange and supernatural.* Replay the video and pause to repeat.

Cave Drawings. Have students draw a cave as you discuss cave information. Ask students to include *stalactites* (icicle-like limestone formations hanging from the ceiling), *stalagmites* (similar formations rising from the floor), and *spelunkers* (people exploring the cave). During the day, bats often sleep in caves, hanging upside down with their wings folded. Have students add sleeping bats, or nighttime flying bats, to their pictures.

Extend and Make Connections

Believe It or Not Skits. Have partners create original skits beginning with the lines: "You won't believe what I saw!" "What?" Students can act out their skits or present them as a puppet show, using the Character Cards on page 35.

Alphabet Game. Play a round of the car game *Bo and Buster* play: "I'm going on a trip and I'm taking Aliens." "I'm going on a trip and I'm taking Aliens and Bats."