

## Grade 3 Unit 1 Armadilly Chili by Helen Ketterman

### Synopsis:

A blue northern's a-blowin', and Miss Billie Armadilly is hankering to make a pot of chili! Only she needs to fix it all by herself because Tex the tarantula, Mackie the mockingbird, and Taffy the horned toad are too busy to lend a hand. Well, she'll eat it all by herself, too! But then the smell of chili cooking in the cold night brings her friends one by one, back to Miss Billie's door. What's a lady armadillo to do?

### Big Ideas and Key Understanding:

- Cooking
- Animals
- Sharing and Taking Turns
- Sharing
- Understanding Self and Others

### Key Words and Vocabulary Activities:

Armadillo

Mockingbird

Tarantula

Swooped

Scurried

Play hangman using the key words listed above– see if you can stump your friends!

Write another chapter for Armadilly Chili using the vocabulary words!

**Read book:**

**Discussion Questions:**

Does this book remind you of another story? If you said Little Red Hen, how is it similar?

Do you think Miss Billie was right not to share her chili?

Why did Miss Billie's chili taste "flat"?

What was her chili missing?

**Extension Activities:**

Listen to the book read on the following website:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8OOMOKVfSv8>

How was it different than when you read it yourself? Did you learn something new?

What would have happened if Miss Billie didn't invite her friends in to share her chili? Write a new ending to the book.

Ask your parents if you can help make chili for dinner. See if it tastes better than regular chili! A recipe is listed below:

<http://allrecipes.com/recipe/chili-joes-for-kids/>



## Grade 3 Unit 1 The BoxCar Children Gertrude Chandler Warner

### Synopsis:

Four resourceful, independent orphans find inventive ways to stick together through all kinds of exciting mysteries and adventures, including living in a boxcar!

### Big Ideas and Key Understanding:

- Cooperation and Teamwork
- Courage, Bravery, Heroism
- Honor
- Resourcefulness
- Siblings
- Survival

### Key Words and Vocabulary Activities:

Chores

Stray

Identity

Content

Make a wheel with a spinner that includes the following phrases:

Act it Out!

Spell it!

Draw it!

Use it in a Sentence!

Using each of the vocabulary words, spin the wheel and see where it lands!

### **Pre-Reading Questions:**

What is a boxcar?

Based on the title of the book, what do you think this book is about?

### **Read Book:**

### **Discussion Questions:**

- What are Henry, Jessie, Violet and Benny running away from?  
Where do they end up?  
What have you run away from that was actually good for you?  
How did you find out that it was good for you?
- What are some ways that Henry and Jessie made do with what they had?  
What are some ways that you have learned to be content with what you have?
- How do the children's attitude make a difference in their adventure?  
What would have happened if they had grumbled and complained the whole time?  
If they had bad attitudes, how much would the children have loved the boxcar they were in?
- What makes Henry work so hard and well for Dr. Moore and Mrs. Moore?  
What does his hard work bring him?

Tell about a time when you were a good worker.  
What was the result of your hard work?

**Extension Activities:**

Watch the movie, coming out August 2014 The BoxCar Children. How does it compare to the book?

<http://www.imdb.com/title/tt3246908/>

Draw a picture of the boxcar, if it were your boxcar, what would you include inside of it?

