

Activity Guide

Rumie Goes Rafting by Meghan Marentette



About the Book

Adventurous little Rumie longs to sail down the stream and find out where it leads, but the water is too low for Uncle Hawthorne's boat. Suddenly, a ladybird floating on a leaf gives Rumie an idea—they should build a raft! With Uncle's help, the raft is built, and they plan to take it out the following day.

When Rumie wakes up early the next morning, Uncle is still asleep. Impatient, Rumie tests out the raft alone, but rain from the night before has made the current too strong, and they're nearly swept over a waterfall! Luckily, just as the raft capsizes, Uncle comes to their rescue. Rumie admits that they should have waited for Uncle instead of going out alone, and the pair spend the afternoon on the lake together.



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Note from the Author

When I was young, I loved to look for things around my home and in the woods that I could use to make miniature houses for my toys. I do the same thing now when I create the props and sets for my books. I collect food packaging, plant leaves, twigs, old clothing—anything that can be looked at or shaped in another way. There is so much to see in even the tiniest of places if we look closely!

The following activities will help you become a keen observer in your environment and think about objects differently.



READING LEVELS

Grade: 1+, **Fountas & Pinnell:** G, **Reading Recovery:** 12, **Lexile® Measure:** AD580L
Common Core: RL.1, W.1, SL.1, L.1

CURRICULUM LINKS

Language Arts: Reading Comprehension



Rumie's Scavenger Hunt Activity #1

Using a magnifying glass, look through the pages of *Rumie Goes Rafting* to discover what objects the author used to make some of the props in Rumie's world.

1. In the first few scenes of the story, Rumie scavenges for things while on a walk outdoors. What does Rumie find? What are the cart's wheels made from?
2. Can you guess what kind of nutshell Rumie's toy boat hull is made from? Hint: It is reddish-brown and shiny. (Uncle Hawthorne uses the other half of the nutshell as a yarn basket in his bedroom. Can you find it?)
3. Rumie and Uncle Hawthorne make their raft out of things they've collected on past scavenger hunts. What do they use?
4. Rumie and Uncle Hawthorne live inside an old, hollow tree. In the underground rooms, there are tree roots above their heads. On the higher bedroom floors, there are windows in the walls where the tree branches used to grow out from the trunk. How do they go up to their bedrooms?
5. One of the rolled-up papers next to the table (where Rumie draws on the map) has part of a word on it. What is it?
6. What does the toy cart carry in Rumie's bedroom?
7. What is the stool under the lantern made from in Rumie's bedroom?
8. What does the drawing show in the open book on the rug in Uncle Hawthorne's bedroom? How many books are in his room?
9. What does Uncle Hawthorne use to make the life preserver?
10. Can you find the frog that snuck into the scene at the dock (where Uncle ties on Rumie's life vest)?
11. There are many different kinds of leaves in Rumie's forest. Find these plants: grass, moss, ferns, reeds, tiny maple saplings (about the size of your fingertip!).



1. The cart's wheels are made from buttons, inside the cart are tree cones, a bread tag, a twist tie, string, pussy willow buds, and a ribbon. 2. Pecan. 3. Wood for the deck, twigs for the mast, a twist tie to hold the mast together, birchbark for the sail, and ribbons and string as decorations. 4. By ladders made from twigs. 5. Chocolate! The map is also drawn on the inside of a chocolate bar wrapper. 6. A broken robin egg and a snail shell. 7. A bottle-cap seat with twig legs. Uncle Hawthorne also uses bottle caps as candle plates. 8. The open book on the floor is Uncle's sketchbook; he has drawn a design for the new life vests, which he stayed up late the night before to finish sewing. There are five other books in Uncle's bedroom. 9. A string tied to a pine cone. 10. The frog is peeking out of the water near the tip of Uncle's tail.

Answers

Rumie's Scavenger Hunt Activity #2

Scavenge for things in your home that might normally be thrown away and create a new way to use them.

Rumie and Uncle Hawthorne repurpose the things humans throw away to make furniture, tools, and other items for their home. There's so much to collect, but here are some examples of what you might look for:

Shoebox

Twist ties

Old shoelaces

Bottle caps

Worn-out sock

Chopsticks

Foil pie plate

Candy wrappers or plastic cellophane from packaging

Yogurt containers

Twigs

Cardboard tube

1. Find a few things from the list above or other things you find interesting. Clean your items and make sure they are safe to use, with no sharp edges.
2. Think about the **characteristics** of each item you have scavenged.
 - What does it look like? How about upside down?
 - What does it feel like?
 - Can it bend or stretch?
 - What does it sound like if you tap or squish it?



Some examples:

- Foil plates and chocolate wrappers are shiny and hold their shape: they could be formed into new shapes and linked together with twist ties to create a decorative garland.
 - Yogurt containers are hollow and can be used to make a little set of drums; collect different sizes and flip them upside down, strike them with chopsticks, and play along with your favorite song!
 - Plastic candy wrappers and cellophanes often make a crinkly sound when squished. If you have a pet, tie the wrappers to an old shoelace to drag across the floor as a toy for them to chase.
3. Make a new creation with the items you have scavenged. Things to think about:
 - i. Would you use your items to make something for yourself or your toys, like a bed or a house?
 - ii. Would you take your items apart or use them as they are?
 - iii. Would your new item be useful or would you make a piece of art, like a sculpture of an animal?