

# Mouse Views

## Introduction

Illustrations in picture books can be an excellent tool for children to use to make predictions. Following the format of the picture book, *Mouse Views: The View of a Classroom Pet* by Bruce McMillan, children take close-up photographs of objects and combine the pictures in a *HyperStudio* stack that provides classmates with the opportunity to sharpen their observation skills. The contribution of each child will increase social interaction and give opportunities to hypothesize. Labeling objects enables children to make connections between pictures and the written word.

## Materials

- Computer
- *HyperStudio*
- Microphone
- *Mouse Views: The View of a Classroom Pet*
- Choose one or more of the following:
  - Flatbed color scanner and 35 mm camera
  - Video camera and video-in card
  - QuickCam
  - Digital camera (such as QuickTake)

## Ahead of Time

- Talk to the children about taking photographs and handling the camera (either a regular or digital camera can be used). If the children are photographing people, explain that they need to ask permission. Ask children to decide what to photograph before they use the camera.
- Each child will take two photographs—one close-up and one at a regular view. If using a digital camera, the adult may need to assist the child. The adult might want to take the same picture again. The teacher will need to prepare pictures to load into the stack.
- Ask children to take pictures of the classroom pet. Either scan the photos in or load the digital image.
- If a video camera or QuickCam can be used, take movies of the children playing in the classroom or with the classroom pet. Still pictures taken with a 35 mm camera or digital camera can also be used.

## Introductory Activity

In preparation for creating the stack, conduct one of the following activities:

- Read *Mouse Views: The View of a Classroom Pet* with the children.
- Introduce a pet into the classroom and discuss the different objects the pet may see around the room.

- Prompt children to crawl around the room looking at objects from a different perspective.

### Computer Activity

- It is now time to start the *HyperStudio* stack. Open the *HyperStudio* application and choose **New Stack**. Create and name a title card (card #1), “Mouse Views: The View of a Classroom Pet.” Add the classroom pet’s picture on this page.
- Choose **New Card** (card #2). Add a close-up view of an object as clip art. Select the **Text** tool and type a line of question marks under the picture. Ask children to help type the question marks.
- Add another card (card #3). Place the regular view photo on this page as clip art. A small picture of the classroom pet could be added beside the picture.
- Create a text block under the regular view photo and encourage the children to label the object. The children can type the letters and/or words. If the children want to use invented spelling, that is okay. The teacher might want to use the **Text** tool and type the word correctly under the child’s word.
- Add sound buttons to the cards if the children are interested. The children could label the picture, talk about the two different views, say their names, or record a sound.
- Repeat the close-up and regular view card for each child in the program.
- Ask children to help add buttons to connect the cards. At the end of the stack, the teacher might want to add a new card with rolling credits, giving recognition to all the children.
- Add video clips to cards in the stack. The children can help decide where to place the movies.

### Extended Activity

- Print the stack. Laminate and bind the pages to create individual books or a classroom book for the reading center.
- Take a tour of the classroom. Ask children to pretend they are pets and take them on a tour of the school to view classes, children, and staff. This is a good time to become acquainted with the people in the school environment. Take the video camera or digital camera along to record the tour for classroom use.

### Summary

Flexibility is important. Children can make suggestions about other buttons to add. Some children may want to animate their pictures using the path or frame animation. A child might want to put a movie on his or her page. Some children can be guided through these steps, while others may need more direct help.