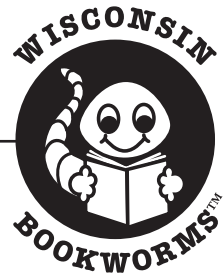


Activity Sheet



Balancing Act by Ellen Stoll Walsh

Two mice make a teeter-totter. They're balancing just fine, but then along comes a frog. Can they make room for one more friend on their teeter-totter? What about two? What about more? But then a big bird comes along and wants to play, too. Better watch out!

Before you read this book: Talk about the idea of weight — something being heavier or lighter than something else. Ask the kids to compare two and three items — make them very different to begin and closer in weight after they've had a little practice. Please be sensitive and do not compare the weights of people.

While you read this book: Ask "Which end is heavier?" and "Which end is lighter?" Have them predict what will happen when the frog and bird join the fun on the stick or what will happen if the frog lands in the middle.

After you read this book: Make a simple weighing scale by poking three holes in the sides of a paper cup near the rim. Attach a piece of string to each hole and tie the other end of the string around either end of a ruler. Now balance the ruler on your index finger. What happens when you put an object in one of the cups? Now try putting an object in one cup and a different object in the other cup. Which object is heavier? Or do they balance/weigh the same? Experiment with a variety of objects.

Try this at home: Take your child to the grocery store. Explain how the scale in the produce department works. Make a game out of weighing your fruits and veggies. Which weighs more — a banana or a sack of potatoes? Have them predict which is heavier and then weigh the items to find out if they are right.

Check out this link for a balancing video with *Peg + Cat* from PBS KIDS:
pbskids.org/peg/adventures/cleo-and-epidermis/1

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