

# 2nd GRADE PROJECT-BASED

Second-grade learning materials and books include: six award-winning, classic literature books, each complete with a comprehensive learning curriculum; materials that include both phonics and whole language instructional methods to teach reading; a spelling curriculum; and a basic grammar book to teach grade-level skills. Math and science includes both skills-based books and a wide selection of hands-on and problem-solving activities. The curriculum manual that is the integral part of this program guides the parent/teacher through the work.

## READING SKILLS BOOKS INCLUDE

*Nicky*, both student and teacher editions  
*Uncle Bunny*, both student and teacher editions  
Phonics, Grade Two.  
*Spelling for 1st through 3rd Grade*  
(included in curriculum guide)

## LITERATURE & SOCIAL STUDIES

*Alexander & the Terrible, Horrible,  
No Good Day*  
*Frog and Toad are Friends*  
*Ira Sleeps Over*  
*Johnny Appleseed*  
*Miss Rumphius*  
*The Mitten: A Ukrainian Folktale*

## WRITING AND GRAMMAR SKILLS

*Grammar 1-2*  
Practice writing tablet

## MATH & SCIENCE

*Spectrum Math, Grade 2*  
Or *Saxon Math 2nd Grade*  
*The Cloud Book*  
Science: 23 ready-to-go lesson plans



# Miss Rumphius

*Miss Rumphius*, written and illustrated by Barbara Cooney, is a lovely book about goals and dreams. Your youngster will enjoy reading this book of friendships in faraway places, and of making the world a more beautiful place to live.

## LANGUAGE ARTS ACTIVITIES

### BEFORE READING

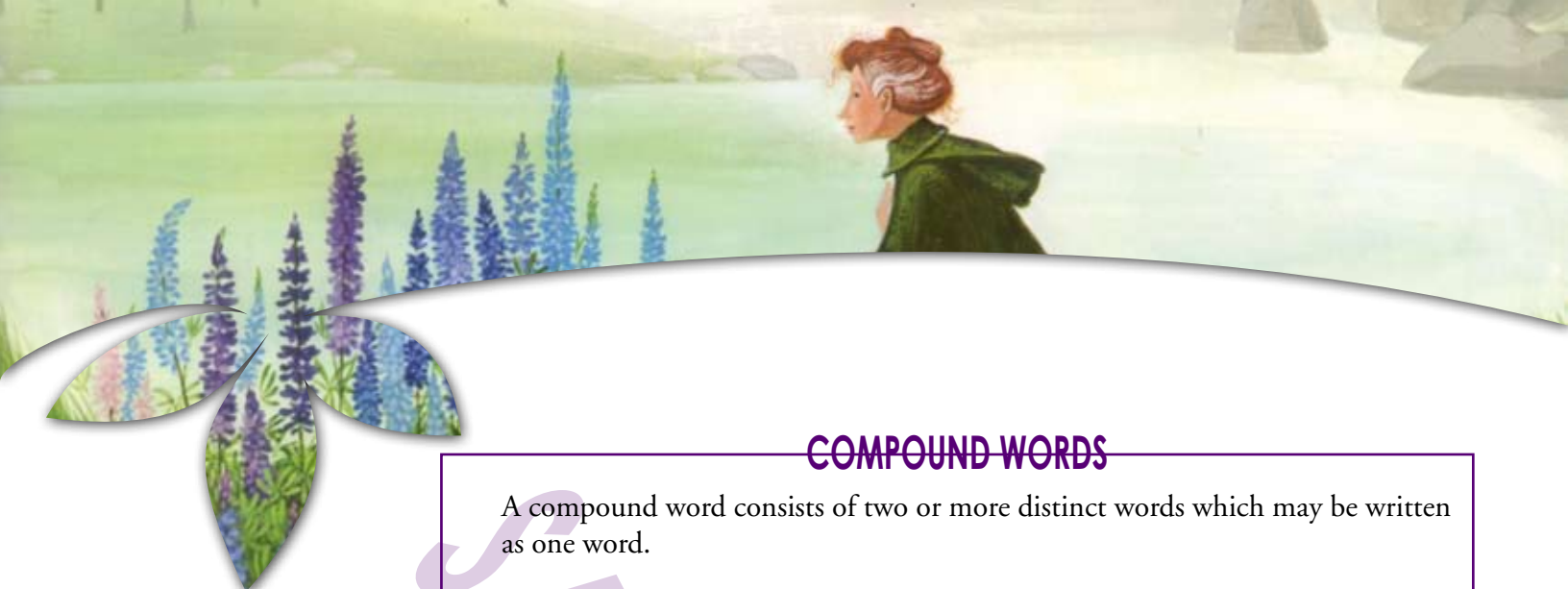
Ask your child what his or her dreams are for when he or she “grows up.” Then, tell your student that you are going to be reading a book about a little girl who had dreams, and how they came true.

### WHILE READING

- Stop and enjoy the illustrations and ask your child to describe them to you.
- Take your time reading the book. When you pick up the book after a break, ask your child to remind you of what has happened so far in the story.
- Don't hesitate to read the book again and again. Your child will learn new or unfamiliar words from the repetition. Children enjoy the repetition of favorite books.
- Stop at the appropriate places to enhance your child's enjoyment and understanding with the following activities.

We suggest that you read this book out loud, giving your youngster lots of opportunity to develop fluent oral reading skills. Encourage using different “voices” for dialog.

As you progress through the book, stop at the appropriate places and pose the questions to or complete the activities detailed on the following pages.



## COMPOUND WORDS

A compound word consists of two or more distinct words which may be written as one word.

For example: **bath + room = bathroom**


Have your child use the words below to form other examples of compound words.

_____	+ ball	=	_____
_____	+ walk	=	_____
_____	+ light	=	_____
_____	+ room	=	_____
brush	+ _____	=	_____
grand	+ _____	=	_____
bath	+ _____	=	_____

Now, as you and your child read through *Miss Rumphius*, write down any compound words that you find.

- After reading the first four pages, ask your student to tell you where Alice lived, and the type of work her grandfather did for a living.
- Alice wanted to do two things when she got older, but her grandfather told her that she must do a third thing. Discuss with your child the two things Alice wanted to do, and the third thing her grandfather told her she must do. Ask why Alice's grandfather might have wanted her to do the third thing.
- When Alice grew up, she became a librarian. Talk about some of the things a librarian does, such as purchase books, help people find information in books, file books on shelves, and use the computer to locate books. Ask your child what he or she might like and might not like about being a librarian. The next time you visit the library, have your child ask one of the librarians what he or she likes most about the job and what he or she dislikes.
- After Alice grew up, people called her Miss Rumphius instead of Alice. Ask your student why that might be. (We use it to demonstrate our respect for someone we respect.) If your child has adult friends whom he or she calls Mr., Mrs., or Ms., discuss the reasons for this. Alternatively, talk about why children in regular school usually use the Mr., Mrs., or Ms. title when talking to their teacher.

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- Miss Rumphius visited some faraway places and from the Bapa Raja she received a gift. Discuss with your child what he or she might give as a gift to a house guest. What type of gift would remind the visitor of your family and the area in which you live.
  - Miss Rumphius visited a tropical island on her travels. Have your student research the different animals and plants that grow in the tropics (*National Geographic* magazines are great for this activity). Then, using a large piece of construction paper, your student may draw their own picture of what they think a tropical island might look like.
  - Ask your youngster why he or she thinks Miss Rumphius decided it was time to go and live by the sea. At this point, Miss Rumphius has accomplished two of her goals. The third is to leave the world a more beautiful place. Ask your student to tell you what he or she might do when he or she grows up to make the world a better place. Then, discuss activities that you and your family could do right now to help make the world a more beautiful place in which to live.
  - In the story, Miss Rumphius goes to the top of a hill and sees a large patch of lupine. Stop and have your child predict how the lupines were planted on top of the hill.
  - After Miss Rumphius sprinkled lupine seed all over the countryside, some people began to call her That Crazy Old Lady. Ask your child why he or she thinks people would do this. Ask your student if he or she thinks Miss Rumphius was crazy.
  - The little girl who is telling the story is also called Alice. She and her friends sometimes go to visit Miss Rumphius. The illustration on one page shows Miss Rumphius as an old lady entertaining a group of children in her living room. Talk about the illustration. What do the decorations and pictures tell about Miss Rumphius? Where does your child think the parrot comes from? Does your child think Miss Rumphius is a good storyteller? Why, or why not? Do the children enjoy visiting Miss Rumphius? Why, or why not?

### WRITING ACTIVITIES

Have your child create an imaginary place to visit. Then have him or her design a travel brochure with pictures and written descriptions encouraging travelers to go to this exciting place. For examples of travel brochures, stop into a travel agency and pick up two or three brochures that are colorful and tell about places you might like to visit some day.

Encourage your child to describe his or her goals or dreams in a complete paragraph. If your student enjoys art, have him or her illustrate it.



## MATH/SCIENCE ACTIVITY

Pick several dead flowers from a garden (often the ones you buy at the florist do not have time to fully develop seeds before dying). The ones that work well for this activity are members of the daisy family, such as marigolds or sunflowers. On a sheet of clean white paper, break apart the flowers to find and separate the seeds. Count how many seeds you found in each of the flowers. Examine the seeds with a hand held magnifying glass or through a microscope. Ask your child to draw what he or she sees.

## SCIENCE ACTIVITY

Purchase a packet of lupine seeds and plant them according to the instructions on the packet. Note how many seeds there were in the packet. Record this information somewhere safe. After the flowers have grown, count how many grew and calculate how many seeds did not grow into plants.

## SOCIAL STUDIES ACTIVITIES

- Miss Rumphius lives near an ocean. Use an atlas or a globe to locate the Atlantic and Pacific oceans, and talk about the places along the east and west coasts of the United States where Miss Rumphius might possibly have lived.
- Using the same atlas or globe, locate one or two islands in the tropics. Show your student where the Tropic of Cancer and the Tropic of Capricorn fall on the globe or map (approximately 23° north and south of the Equator). Talk about how it is consistently warm in the parts of the world between these two imaginary lines. After you have shown your student one or two islands between the Tropics, ask him or her to do likewise.
- Draw two columns on a sheet of paper and title them as follows:  
Ways in which my life would be different.      Ways in which my life would be the same.
- Then ask you student to tell you how his or her life would be the same or different if he or she lived on a tropical island. List his or her answers on the paper.
- In the story Miss Rumphius goes to faraway places and becomes friends with people of many different cultures. These people, Miss Rumphius said, she would never forget. Talk about friendship with your child and encourage her or him or write a sentence or two about a friend he or she will always remember.