



Fergus and Zeke

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Illustrated by: Heather Ross

Fergus loves being the class pet in Miss Maxwell's classroom. He does everything the students do, until the teacher plans a field trip to the museum without Fergus! He doesn't want to miss the fun, so he stows away in a backpack and sets off for an adventure. He meets a new friend, Zeke, who knows the ropes, and together they explore everything. But when the time comes for the bus to leave, Fergus is worried that he'll be left behind. Will he make it back to school?

Lexile: 580

AR Level: 3.0

RC Level: 3.3

Author's website <http://www.katemessner.com>

Author's twitter @KateMessner

Illustrator's website <http://heatherross.squarespace.com>

Illustrator's twitter @hrosstweets

Book Trailer/Author Interview: <https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=e7aqldcf5iE>

Other websites/links: (Publisher sometimes has teacher guides available)

Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History Virtual Tour:

https://naturalhistory.si.edu/VT3/NMNH/z_NMNH-016.html

Food:

Cheerios

Bananas

Ham sandwiches

Sunflower seeds

Nonfiction Companion Titles:

Gardom, Tim. *The Natural History Museum Book of Dinosaurs*

Hartland, Jessie *How the Dinosaur got to the museum*

Trenc, Milan *A Night at the Museum*

Introduction: Dress like the mice: red plaid scarf, a green newsboy cap, and a backpack. Show students a map or guide from a museum and talk about how to plan a trip to the museum.

Story Time Activities:

-Have kids plan an exhibit of something for a natural history museum like a collection of leaves, a collection of rocks, a collection of sea shells and have kids come and view them.

-Do a jazzy dance.

-Design a backpack and list what you would take with you on a field trip.

Discussion Questions:

1. What would your favorite exhibit at the Natural History museum be? Make a bar graph?
2. Have you ever been on a field trip? What kind of rules did you have?
3. What would your favorite lunch be for a field trip?
4. Do you think it was ok for the mice not to follow the people rules? Why or why not?
5. Would you rather live in a classroom or a museum? Why?
6. How is this story the same or different from City Mouse, Country Mouse?