

# Mercy Watson Thinks Like a Pig



**11 activities**

**chapter  
questions**



**FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION**





These novel units are something I created and started using in my classroom. I had students with significant challenges and most were **non-readers**. They were the best thing I ever did, and my students LOVED them.

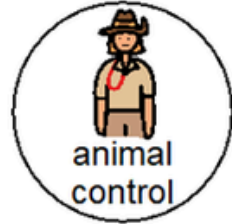


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This novel unit has **11 different activities**. These activities are NOT comprehension-based. So, even if your students do not pay attention, they can still complete the activity.

What are some animals that animal control might help with?















errorless

Place the following in the circle map on the previous page showing animals animal control would help with.

 raccoon	 skunk	 dog	 cat	 bat
 squirrel	 snake	 bird	 opossum	 fox

Place the following in the circle map on the previous page **ONLY IF** you think there are animals animal control would help with.

 raccoon	 skunk	 dog	 cat	 bat
 squirrel	 dinosaur	 bird	 elephant	 fox
 tiger	 snake	 giraffe	 opossum	 shark

For example, Francine is an animal control officer.

This circle map looks at animals animal control officers will typically help with.

It comes with an errorless version, and one with wrong answers mixed in.



## Suggestions for Use

- I made this unit to go along with the book, *Mercy Watson Thinks Like a Pig (book 5)*, by Kate DiCamillo.
- I figured that you would be reading it aloud to your class at a rate of about 1-2 chapters per day.
- Be sure to give each student their own copy of the story board (pg. 5) to use while reading and discussing the story.
- Benefits of reading out loud, even to classes made up of severely affected students:
  - Teaches students to sit quietly even when there isn't something for them to do. This is such an important life skill. We all have to spend time sitting and listening to someone we are not that interested in at some point.
  - Parents will LOVE you. Not only will they be excited their child is being exposed to age appropriate material, but you are teaching them how to sit quietly, which will hopefully transfer to home as well.
  - Even with your lowest level learners, you will have 1 or 2 that will truly enjoy the story.
  - It can be a calming experience to sit and listen to the teacher read in a methodical way.
- For students who need more structure, place the number of post-it notes in front of him/her that corresponds to the number of pages you intend to read. Remove a post-it as you finish each page. The visual will help lessen their anxiety.
- You will find 1 activity for each chapter. You will still have plenty to choose from and find those that fit best with your students.
- Differentiation:
  - For any activity, you can quickly differentiate for your lower level learners by using a color coding technique.
  - If sorting, outline each sorting category a certain color and then outline the corresponding pictures the same color.
  - Becomes a matching task.
- This unit includes 15 comprehension questions. There is a chart to show which chapter each question comes from. Each questions is a multiple-choice questions with three answer choices that uses pictures. (*This is a separate pdf.*)
- An answer key is included.

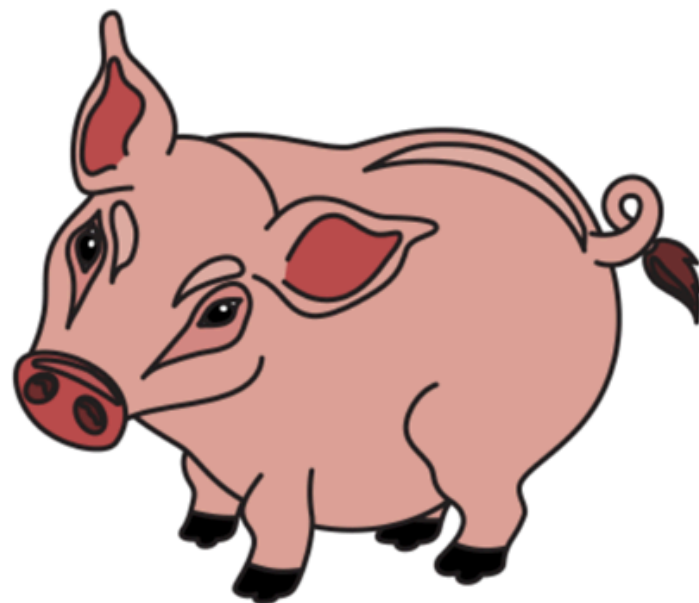
Suggestions on how I found this activity worked best in my classroom are provided. I typically had 6-8 students with one adult assistant in the room with me.

# Mercy Watson Thinks Like a Pig (book 5)

for Special Education  
By

Christa Joy

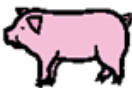














Special Needs for Special Kids



*This entire novel unit comes in 2 separate files. One is completely in color and one is completely in black and white.*



Story Board : to use while reading and for class discussions. Laminate and make 1 copy for each student.

 Mercy	 Mr. Watson	 Mrs. Watson	 Baby	 Eugenia
 Frank	 Stella	 Francine	 lemonade	 plant flowers
 tea party	 think	 van	 tree	 hero
 repeat that	 I like that	 I don't like that	 I don't know	 need a break

This unit comes with a vocabulary board.

Vocabulary boards are great for ALL students to assist with participation and engagement in group discussions.

Tips on how to use in the unit!!

What are some things commonly served at a tea party?



Place the following in the circle map on the previous page showing things that are commonly served at afternoon tea.



Place the following in the circle map on the previous page **ONLY IF** you think they would be served at afternoon tea.



There are circle maps in this unit.

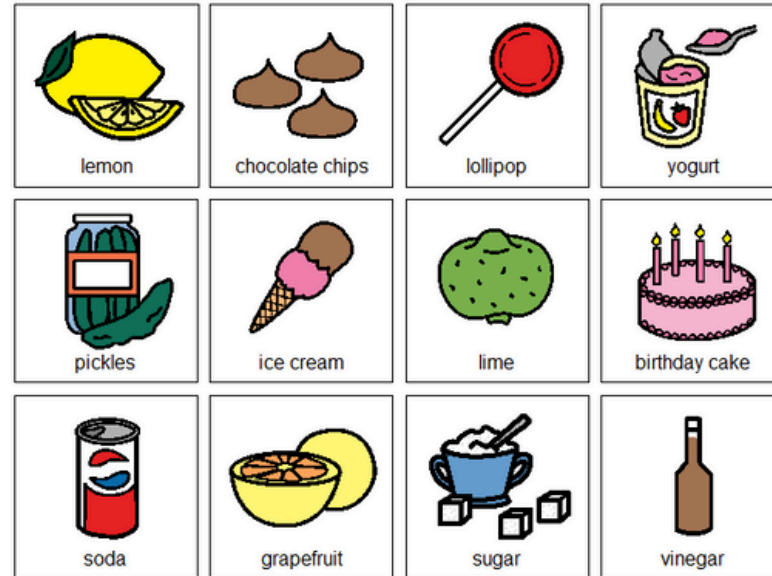
Circle maps are a great way for students to see the big idea.



Sort the following items into those you could eat and those could not.



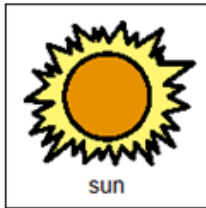
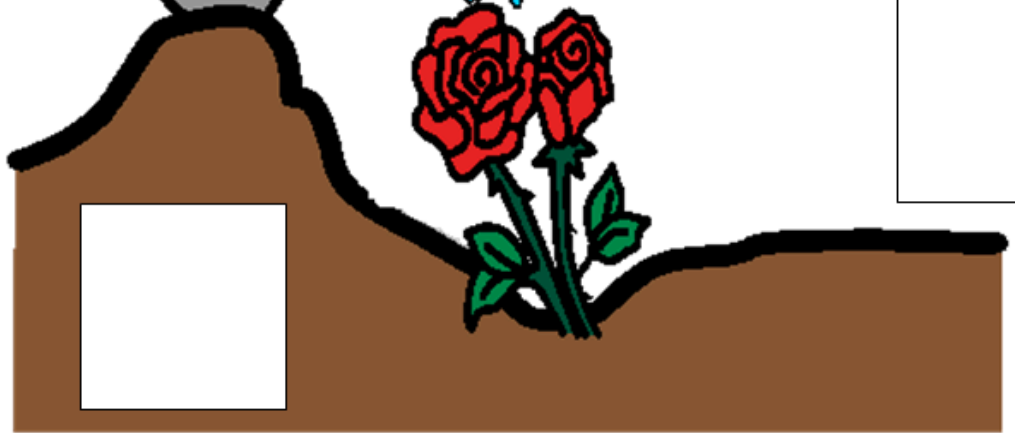
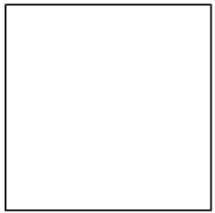
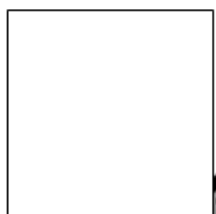
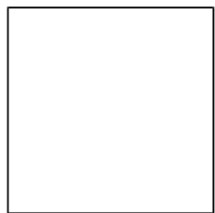
Sweet/Sour Sort: Cut apart the pictures and sort onto previous page depending on how they would taste. If you are not sure, place it on the middle line.



There are sorting activities.

Directions on how to add differentiation are included.

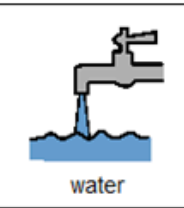
What do flowers need to grow?



sun



time



water



rain



dirt

There are matching activities. Directions on how to add differentiation are included.



# Think Like a Pig







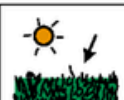






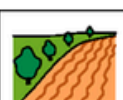











If you think like a pig, you would look for  to eat.

If you think like a pig, you would look for  to sleep on.

If you think like a pig, you would look for  to play in.

If you think like a pig, you would play with a .

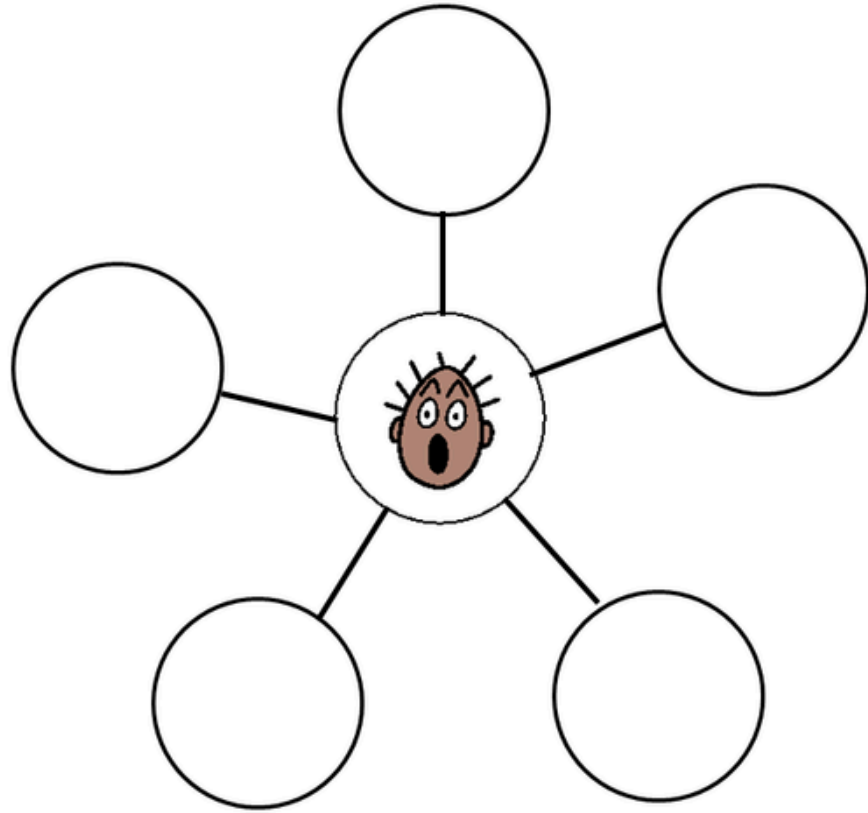
I think being a pig would be .

 corn	 wheat	 vegetables	 fruit	 toast
 hay	 grass	 mud	 a blanket	 a house
 mud	 a pool	 a pond	 a field	 a park
 sheep	 goat	 calf	 rat	 cat
 great	 fun	 interesting	 okay	 silly

There are writing prompts.

Students can choose from the pictures (making this an errorless activity) or write in their own answers.

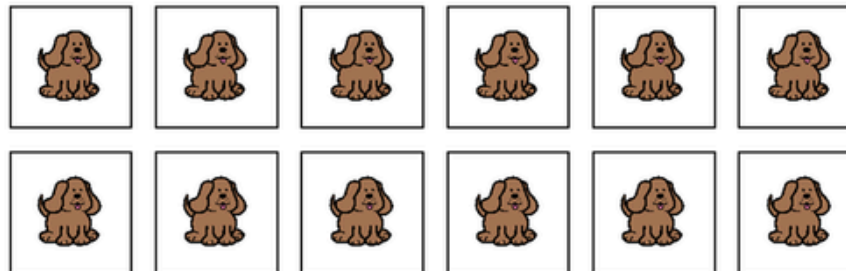
What do you think an unmentionable horror means?



Francine was thinking like a pig and looking for Mercy. While looking, she picked up 2 dogs in the park. Then, she picked up 1 dog in front of the library. Finally, she picked up 3 dogs in the playground. How many total dogs did Francine pick up while looking for Mercy?

$$\square + \square + \square = \square$$

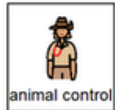
Use the pictures to work out the problem in the big box.



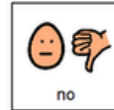
Because there are so many activities, you can choose the ones that fit your students the best.



6. Who did Eugenia call about Mercy?



7. Did animal control agree to come?



8. Who comes to warn the Watson that something terrible is about to happen?



9. What did Stella and Frank invite Mercy to?



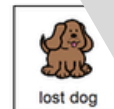
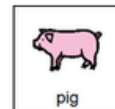
10. What does Mercy have to wear to the tea party?



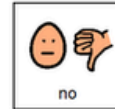
11. What did Francine pick up along the way before getting the Watsons?



12. What does Francine realize she needs to think about before getting to Mercy?



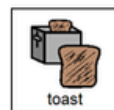
13. Were Frank and Mercy happy at the tea party?



14. Where was Francine when she spotted Mercy?



15. What does Mrs. Watson make for everyone?



This unit does come with comprehension questions.

There are 15 questions for the book. Each question has 3 picture choices, both in color and black and white.

Answer key included!!