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Who Sank the Boat? by Pamela Allen

These STEM focussed questions are designed to use alongside the questions you would usually ask when reading a story.

Before you start reading, you could ask:

- Why does the boat in the picture stay on top of the water?
- What does an object do if it doesn't float?
- Why might a boat sink?

While reading the story, you could ask:

Pages 3:

• Which animal do you think/predict will sink the boat? Why?

Page 5:

• Do you think/predict that the cow will sink the boat? Why?

Pages 6 - 8:

- What happened to the boat when the cow got in?
- Why is the boat tilting?

Page 9:

• Do you think/predict that the donkey will sink the boat? Why?

Pages 10 – 12:

- What happened to the boat when the donkey got in?
- Why isn't the boat tilting anymore?
- Is the boat balanced? Why?

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Page 13:

• Do you think/predict that the pig will sink the boat? Why?

Pages 14 – 16:

- What happened to the boat when the pig got in?
- Is the boat tilting? Why?
- How could we balance the boat?
- What has happened to the water level?
- What happens if the water rises higher than the sides of the boat?

Pages 17:

• Do you think/predict that the sheep will sink the boat? Why?

Pages 18 – 20:

- What happened to the boat when the sheep got in?
- Is it tilting or balanced?
- What has happened to the water level now?

Page 21:

• Do you think/predict that the mouse will sink the boat? Why?

Pages 23:

• Who did sink the boat? How did that happen?

After reading, you could ask:

- Do you think the animals were heavy or light?
- How did the mouse sink the boat even though he was the lightest?
- Would the mouse have sank the boat if he got in it by himself?
- Would the cow? Donkey? Sheep? Pig?
- Who really sank the boat?
- What needs to happen for a boat to sink?

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