



Rina's Rainy Day Plan

Ages 6-9
A story and 9 activities



Rina's Rainy Day Plan

It has been raining for three days, and Rina has run out of ideas.

She has read her library books twice. She has drawn six pictures. She has built a tower out of blocks, knocked it down, and built it again. Now she stands at the window with her nose against the glass, watching raindrops race each other down the pane.

"I'm bored," she says.

"Hmm," says Mommy, folding laundry.

"I'm so bored. There's nothing to do. I've done everything."

"Have you?" asks Mommy. "What about the box in the hall closet?"

Rina trudges to the closet. On the bottom shelf sits a big cardboard box, the one the new washing machine came in. It is tall and wide, big enough for a kid to climb into.

"What do I do with a box?"

"That's a good question," says Mommy. "What could a box be?"

Rina frowns. It is a box. That's what it is. But Mommy gives her a look that says, think a little harder.

She climbs inside and sits down. The walls curve around her. It is dim and cozy, like a cave.

"It's a cave," she says.

"Interesting," says Mommy from the other room.

Rina flips the box onto its side so the opening faces out. A cave needs light. She finds a flashlight and a pile of pillows. She hangs a blanket across the front like a curtain.

"Now it's a bear cave," she says. "And I'm a bear who's hibernating."

She growls. It is a small growl, but it echoes.

Her little brother Yossi wanders in, rubbing his eyes from a nap. "What's that?"

"A bear cave. Do you want to come in?"

Yossi crawls inside. "I'm a baby bear," he says.

"Then I'm the mama bear. And we need food." She looks around. "Berries."

She finds a bowl of grapes in the kitchen. They creep back into the cave and eat in the dim light. Yossi giggles so much that he gets hiccups.

After a while, Rina has a new idea. She takes out a marker and draws a window on the side of the box. Then a door. Then a little mailbox.

"Now it's a house," she says. "We live in the forest. Our neighbor is a squirrel, and she's very nosy."

"What's her name?" asks Yossi.

"Mrs. Acorn."

They play all afternoon. They make a stove out of a smaller box. They make a bed from a towel. Mommy peeks in, and Rina invites her to tea. Mommy sits on the floor with her knees bent and drinks invisible tea from a paper cup.

"Delicious," says Mommy.

"It's acorn tea," says Yossi.

When Totty comes home, he stands in the hallway and stares. "What's all this?"

"It's our house," says Rina. "Come in. But duck."

Totty ducks, and squeezes in, and his head bumps the ceiling. Everyone bursts out laughing.

The next morning, the rain is still falling. But Rina wakes up with a plan.

"Today, I'm going to turn the box into a bakery," she announces.

"A bakery?" says Mommy. "I like that."

By noon, the bakery has a sign (Rina's Bakery, Open Today), a counter made from a stool, and a menu with six kinds of pretend cookies. The first customer is Yossi. The second is Mommy. The third is a stuffed bear, who orders two.

When the sun finally comes out on the fourth day, Rina looks outside. The puddles shine. She grabs her boots and runs for the door. Then she pauses and looks back at the bakery.

"Don't go anywhere," she tells it. "I'll be right back."



Activity 1 of 9

Remember the story

1. How many days has it been raining?

2. What does the big box come in?

3. What is the squirrel's name?

4. What does Rina turn the box into on the second day?



Activity 2 of 9

Fact or guess? (circle one)

1. Rina's little brother is named Yossi. Fact / Guess
2. Rina is bored all four days. Fact / Guess
3. Totty bumps his head on the box ceiling. Fact / Guess
4. The rain stops on the fourth day. Fact / Guess



Activity 3 of 9

Think and write

1. What could you do with a big cardboard box?

2. What do you do when you feel bored?

3. What is the funniest game you ever made up?



Activity 4 of 9

Word search (find all 6)

Words: BOX, RAIN, BAKERY, CAVE, ACORN, COZY

I	S	I	G	C	T	P	E	V	E	K
P	G	W	U	E	P	R	C	I	R	H
S	H	C	V	E	I	K	V	A	S	V
H	M	B	A	K	E	R	Y	G	V	J
M	C	A	P	L	K	I	B	O	X	E
F	T	C	N	K	C	O	Z	Y	H	L
B	B	O	O	Y	K	O	O	C	B	C
K	Y	R	N	M	S	P	R	T	R	N
M	H	N	J	J	L	J	A	E	K	C
T	V	A	I	S	A	Y	I	V	N	M
V	M	J	I	O	M	W	N	L	K	A



Activity 5 of 9

Scrambled words (from the story)

1. IANR = _____

2. VEAC = _____

3. RAYEBK = _____

4. RQLUESIR = _____

5. ACONR = _____



Activity 6 of 9

Say it out loud

Practice each line in a calm, steady voice:

"I have a new idea!"

"What could this be?"

"Do you want to play with me?"



Activity 7 of 9

My chart

My Bored No More Chart

#	Something plain	What it could be	What we played
Idea 1			
Idea 2			
Idea 3			



Activity 8 of 9

Draw it

Draw Rina's bakery box with the sign and the six kinds of cookies.

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin black border, intended for the student to draw Rina's bakery box, sign, and six kinds of cookies.



Activity 9 of 9

Answers

Remember the story:

1. Three days
2. A new washing machine
3. Mrs. Acorn
4. A bakery

Fact or guess: 1 Fact; 2 Guess; 3 Fact; 4 Fact

Scrambled words: RAIN, CAVE, BAKERY, SQUIRREL, ACORN

Think and write: answers will vary; talk them over together.