

What Are You Doing, Benny?

ACTIVITY KIT



by **CARY FAGAN** and **KADY MACDONALD DENTON**



www.penguinrandomhouse.ca



ABOUT THE BOOK

From *New York Times*–bestselling illustrator Kady MacDonald Denton and award-winning author Cary Fagan comes a charming sibling story that has the makings of a contemporary classic.

Benny’s little brother is really good at a lot of things — making potions and paper airplanes, building forts, putting on puppet shows, even petting the neighbor’s cat (he has a special way of scratching her just behind the ears). But whenever he tries to join in Benny’s activities, all Benny ever says is “No.” Maybe his little brother can watch him do cool stuff, if he’s lucky. What is a little fox to do, except give Benny a taste of his own medicine? Totally familiar yet fresh and original, tenderly told and consistently funny, this story perfectly captures the joys (and annoyances!) of sibling relationships.

CARY FAGAN is an award-winning author for children and adults. His kids’ books include *Mort Ziff Is Not Dead*, the Kaspar Snit novels, the two-volume *Master Melville’s Medicine Show*, *Jacob Two-Two on the High Seas* and the picture books *Little Blue Chair* and *Mr. Zinger’s Hat*, winner of the Marilyn Baillie Picture Book Award and the IODE Jean Throop Award. He has also won the Jewish Book Award and the Vicky Metcalf Award for Literature for Young People, and has been shortlisted for the Silver Birch Award (five times), the Rocky Mountain Book Award (twice), the Hackmatack Award (twice), the Norma Fleck Award, the Shining Willow Award and others. Cary lives in Toronto with his family.

KADY MACDONALD DENTON is an award-winning and *New York Times*–bestselling illustrator. In 1998 she was awarded the Governor General’s Award for *A Child’s Treasury of Nursery Rhymes*. Her books have also won the 2008 Christie Harris Illustrated Children’s Literature Prize and the 2006 Elizabeth Mrazik-Cleaver Award, and they are regularly featured on the Junior Library Guild Selection list and the Canadian Children’s Book Centre’s Best Books for Kids and Teens list. Her illustrations for Bonny Becker’s *A Visitor for Bear* and its sequels are instantly recognizable around the world.

AGES: 3 to 7

GRADES: Preschool to Grade 2

FOUNTAS AND PINNELL READING LEVEL: M



DRAWING ACTIVITY

Throughout the day Benny is seen painting in a tree, sketching on the lawn, and lying on the grass and looking up at the sky. Try to imagine the tree, cat or cloud that captured Benny's attention, and illustrate it in the box below.



WRITING ACTIVITY

Throughout the day Benny's brother is seen setting up a puppet show.

Come up with a short script for your own puppet show about two siblings. What are they doing?

Character #1: _____

Character #2: _____

Setting: _____

Script:

(don't forget to add dialogue!)



DRAWING ACTIVITY

Benny's brother is terrific at making potions. He likes to mix relish and maple syrup and tomato juice and hot sauce and mashed banana. If you were going to make a potion, what would you put in it?

Draw in the contents and label the jars and bottles below.



WRITING ACTIVITY

Benny's brother is really good at making up songs. He'll make up a song right now!
Can you come up with a quick song about someone you like?

I have a _____
Brother / Sister / Friend / Mother / Father

and _____ name is _____
His / Her / Their (Write their name)



Song:

