



**Little  
Novel·Ties**

# **Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs**

**Judi Barrett**

**A Study Guide**

Written by Garrett Christopher

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## **For the Teacher**

This reproducible **Little Novel-Ties** study guide consists of activities to use in conjunction with the book *Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs*. The picture book and its corresponding guide can become an important element in your whole language reading program. The guide contains a synopsis; background information on the author and illustrator; suggested pre-reading activities; exercises that focus on vocabulary; visual literacy, story comprehension, and critical thinking skills; and extension activities that link the story to other curriculum areas.

## **Suggestions For Using Activities**

### **Pre-Reading Activities – Before You Read**

These activities are designed to activate children’s prior knowledge and build concepts or background information. They will motivate children to read and help them to understand the story better. Children can discuss answers to the questions with a partner, in a small cooperative learning group, or with the entire class.

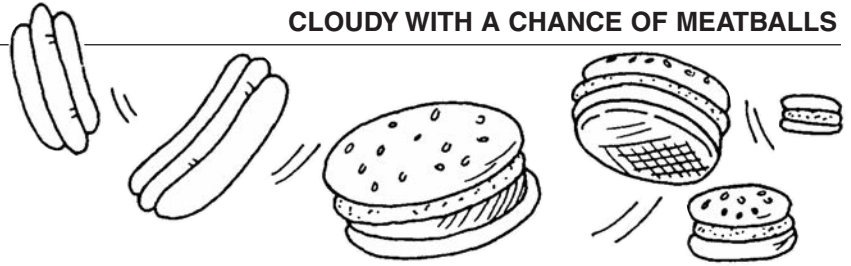
### **Word Study – Same and Different**

On this page, children identify words that belong in the same category; for example, words that name vegetables, eating utensils, or types of weather. Children are then asked to describe how the words within each group are alike.

### **Understanding the Story – Story Questions, Picture Questions**

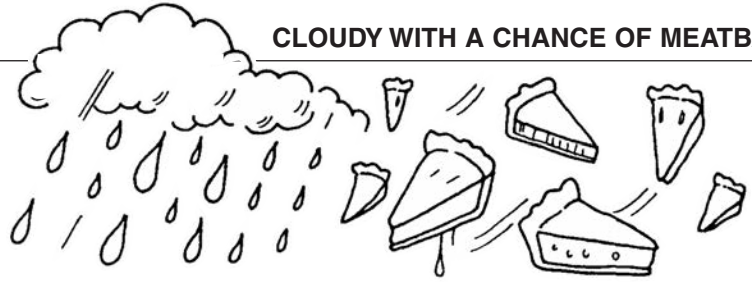
The story questions include a number of literal, inferential, and evaluative questions that help children focus on major story elements. The picture questions help focus children’s attention on picture details.

**BEFORE YOU READ**



1. Read the title of the book. Then look at the picture on the cover. What do you think this book will be about?
2. Look at the pictures in the book. What strange things do you notice about the weather?
3. Think about the weather in your town. What weather words do you use to describe it? Make a list and share it with a partner.
4. The weather in the town of Chewandswallow is most unusual because food falls from the sky. Draw a picture showing your favorite foods falling from the sky. How would this change the life of people in your town?

## STORY QUESTIONS



1. Why does Grandpa start to tell a story about food?
2. In what ways is Chewandswallow like other towns? How is it different? How do you think the town got its name?
3. How do the people who live in Chewandswallow get food to eat?
4. How do the townspeople get ready for the weather in Chewandswallow?
5. What is unusual about the Chewandswallow Sanitation Department?
6. What happens when Chewandswallow weather takes a turn for the worse? How do people feel about this change in the weather?
7. What do the townspeople decide to do?
8. What happens when the people of Chewandswallow reach a small town on the coast?
9. Do you think the townspeople have good ideas? Tell why you think as you do.
10. What big change do the townspeople have to make in their new home?
11. Is Grandpa's story real or make-believe? What makes you think this?
12. What effect does Grandpa's story have on the children?