



Suggested Class Activities for **THREE-RING RASCALS:** **Pop Goes the Circus!**

1. We sometimes use the word *character* to talk about qualities like honesty and generosity (or dishonesty and selfishness) in people. What are some other qualities that show good character? In what ways do the members of Sir Sidney's Circus or others in this book show their character, good or bad?
2. Research the ventriloquist Edgar Bergen and his famous puppet Charlie McCarthy and share something that you learn about this pair.
3. Research Stephen Foster and his song "Oh! Susanna," which was once the most popular song in the United States. What do you think made this song so beloved?
4. On page 16, Bert reads a book called *How to Whistle*. On page 26, Barnabas Brambles shows Flora a book with silly instructions on how to care for a new baby. After reading both examples as a class, write your own set of instructions on how to do something. Share your instructions with a friend or classmate and follow up to see how clear your instructions were.
5. Pretend that you are Bert and write a diary entry for one day in the life of a circus mouse.
6. Pretend that you are Flora and write a letter of apology to Veronica Twist.
7. What is a pun? There are many puns in this book. Find several of them, and then see if you can come up with some puns of your own.
8. Identify the states that Veronica Twist travels through to get from San Francisco, California, to Mobile, Alabama (map on page 46). Write one fact about each of these states.
9. At times in the book, Flora is jealous of the new baby. Write a better way to handle these feelings — other than mailing yourself to a friend!
10. Pretend that you are Bert being carried away by the balloon. Write about what you see and feel.

