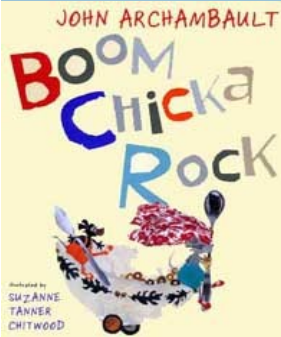


# Beyond the Book...

**Title:** Boom Chicka Rock

**Author:** John Archambault

**Summary:** This story details the antics of the twelve kitchen mice that hide in the clock as they try to get to the birthday clock on the other side of the kitchen. They must pass the cat, though, before they can get to the cake.



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## ***Before Reading...***

Ask questions to use what your child already knows to help him/her understand and enjoy book:

- Have you heard the phrase, "If the cat's away, the mice will play?" What do you think that means?
- How do you think a cat would act around mice? Why?
- What would you have to do to keep someone from seeing you?

## ***During Reading...***

Ask questions while you're reading to encourage book discussion:

- Talk about the cover of the book: What is this jumping out of the clock? How many mice do you think there might be in that clock? Why?
- (From "Sakes alive!"... "Number five".... "fiddlesticks"... "Number six", etc.) Listen to those words! What do you notice about them? Why do you think the author used rhyme in this story?
- What other name do the mice have for the cat? (Lion) Why do you think they call him that?
- On page 20-21 (with mice pulling at the cat) What do you think will happen here?

## ***After Reading...***

- Make clocks using paper plates and paper arrows (cut out of construction paper). Have the child set the clock to the times that he/she wakes up, eats lunch, goes to sleep, etc. Talk about how many minutes pass between each number (practice counting by fives). Find out how long the mice in the story were playing by watching the clock through the story.
- Act out responses to questions, such as: How did the mice feel when they snuck out? How did they feel around the cat? How did they act when the cat woke up? How did they feel when they were back in their clock spots? What do you think the cat was feeling/thinking/doing when he found the mice all around him?

For additional activities visit [www.uwchatt.org](http://www.uwchatt.org) or call 423.752.0300.

*These activities provided by United Way's Project Ready for School initiative and created by students at The University of Tennessee at Chattanooga.*