

# LITTLE THINGS MATTER



## Characters

Lucy  
Molly  
Sammy

Gabby  
Matt  
Adam

## Setting

This reader's theater takes place at school, Lucy's house, and the carnival.



Adam



Lucy



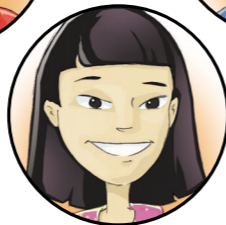
Matt



Sammy



Gabby



Molly

## Act 1

**Lucy:** Happy birthday, Molly! I can't wait to go to the carnival tonight to celebrate your birthday.

**Molly:** I hope my mom let's me go. I can't believe we have to take a science test tomorrow. There's no way I'll have time to study for a science test on matter and celebrate my birthday in the same night.

**Sammy:** I'm worried, too. I need to get an "A" on this test. The only thing I know about matter is that it's the amount of material found in an object.

**Gabby:** All I know is that everything in the universe is made up of matter. Beyond that—I'm clueless!

**Molly:** I vaguely remember our teacher talking about the three states of matter. She said that everything from the farthest star to the biggest truck to the smallest speck of dust is made of matter. But I'm sure I need to know much more to pass the test.

**Matt:** Well, let's all go home to study now. Then we'll meet at the carnival at 6:00 tonight.



# Small Things Lesson Plan

## Objectives

- **Fluency:** Students read passages fluently after practicing and monitoring fluency with repeated readings.
- **Content Area:** Students will learn interesting and important facts about the three states of matter.

## Summary

*Little Things Matter* is the story of a group of students who celebrate a friend's birthday by attending the local carnival. Unfortunately, their teacher has assigned a test on matter the next day. The children must study for the test while at the carnival, so they find creative ways to learn about matter using experiences on the rides and the food at the carnival.



## Materials

- *Little Things Matter* script booklets
- *Small Things Character Masks* copied on cardstock

## Introduce the Literature

Bring vinegar and baking soda to class. Ask a volunteer to pour the vinegar into the baking soda and instruct the class to observe what happens. Explain that they will read three books about matter and the different states of matter. Tell students that the three states of matter— solid, liquid, and gas— can be observed all around them, including the experiment they just observed. The first book they will read is *Matter* by Christopher Cooper. The second book is *The Magic School Bus Gets Baked in a Cake* by Linda Beech. The third book is *George* by E.L. Konigsburg. Read all three books with the class or choose just one to read. After reading the books, ask the class to identify the three states of matter in the vinegar and baking soda experiment. What other examples of the three states of matter did they learn about from the books? List those examples on the board. Ask the class to list other knowledge about matter that they learned from the books.

## ELL Support



Since there are three different books that correspond with the script, it might be helpful to divide the books among the students, allowing different students with varying reading levels to read to the various groups. Allow the different groups to share what they learned from the group.

## Involving All Students

Assign the main roles to six of the students and ask the other students to be the readers of the song and the poem. Allow them to practice reading the song and poem together as a group several times, while the other students practice reading their roles. Another suggestion is to divide the remaining students in half and assign the poem to one group and the song to the other.