

Hello Parents!

*Here are some fun activities and discussion points to help extend the fun and lessons from the story! Grown-ups can find the age range or school level most suited to your child and choose a few points that interest them. Remember that all children develop in their own time and that these are loose guidelines! As a general rule, engagement with and enjoyment of a text is the most important part of developing lifelong readers so we'll start with pictures and plot. Older children can move beyond basic recall of facts from the story and begin to make connections to their own experiences and draw deeper inferences about character feelings, motivation and make predictions about what they might do in Tim's shoes. Many of the activities overlap so that children of different ages can enjoy the same concepts at their own level of understanding. Keep the activities fun, short and light to help your child embrace reading as a fun and relevant part of their life!*

*H Willens*

**Early childhood (approx. 1 - 3 years)** As you look through the pages, explore the illustrations and discuss the main characters (Tim and the Toyman). The youngest children may simply point to or exclaim at different pictures or objects to respond, but encourage talkers to express their thoughts as you read or talk about the story, later.

- Do you have a favourite toy? Which one?
- Find your favorite page in the story! What do you like about it?
- Do you have any toys that look like Tim's toys?
- How does the Toyman take the toys back and forth?
- What does the Toyman do with the toys? Do you think they like staying with him? Why?
- Do you like to pick up your toys? Why or why not?
- What would happen if you never picked up any of your toys!?
- What did Tim learn to do better at the end of the story?
- Pretend that you are your favorite toy! Act out how it would move if it came to life at night.
- Draw or color a picture of your favorite toy. Older children can trace labels of the names of their toys.
- Using rocket-shaped cupcake molds, make your own fizzy rockets by combining baking soda, water and food coloring and freezing them. When they're frozen, pop them free and put them on a cookie sheet. Use a spoon or droppers to drip vinegar on them and watch them fizz around! (carefully supervise children who may still be putting things in their mouths!)
- Parents: cut out a variety of triangles, circles and rectangles for children to assemble their own "shape rocket" for the Toyman to fly around in. Talk about color and shape.

# The TOYMAN

**Early Primary (4 - 7years)** Any of the questions or activities above are still fun and appropriate for this age group! Extend their thinking and hands-on learning with the following ideas:

- Who are the most important characters in the story? (The Toyman and Tim; mommy and the toys may also feature, here!)
- What does the Toyman do with the toys? Do you think they like staying with him? Why?
- What happens when you leave your toys on the ground at night?
- How do you think your toys might be feeling on the ground, all night long?
- What would happen if you never picked up any of your toys!?
- Do you like the Toyman? Why or why not?
- What did Tim learn to do at the end of the story?
- Using rocket-shaped cupcake molds, make your own fizzy rockets by combining baking soda, water and food coloring and freezing them. When they're frozen, pop them free and put them on a cookie sheet. Use a spoon or droppers to drip vinegar on them and watch them fizz around! At this age, you can start discussing chemical reactions that take place between the baking soda and vinegar and experiment with how concentrated to make the rockets ☺
- Build straw rockets: draw/color a mini rocket on a piece of paper and have a grown up help to cut it out. Grownups can help either putting a cut-off plastic pipette or a large straw to the back of the rocket and inserting a smaller straw into it. Blow into the straw and watch your rocket take off! (this craft inspired by Boggy and Buddy <https://buggyandbuddy.com/straw-rockets-with-free-rocket-template/>)
- Your child can write a letter to the Toyman and put it in the mailbox; moms and dads can pretend to be the Toyman and respond back in writing! Children love sending and receiving mail and this is a wonderfully authentic way to practice reading and writing while keeping the magic of the Toyman going beyond the pages of the book!
- Design and build your own rockets using construction paper, toilet paper rolls and tinfoil to zoom around the house.