

# The Boxcar Children: Adventure Begins!

## Materials Needed:

- Copy of 'The Boxcar Children' Book 1 by Gertrude Chandler Warner
  - Notebook or paper
  - Pencil, crayons, or markers
  - Optional: Small cardboard box (shoebox size works well!)
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Hello Adventurer! Today, we're diving into a wonderful mystery story called 'The Boxcar Children'. It's about four brave siblings – Henry, Jessie, Violet, and Benny – who become orphans and decide to make a home for themselves in an abandoned railroad boxcar. Let's find out how their adventure begins!

## Let's Read! (Chapters 1-3)

Grab your copy of the book. We'll read the first three chapters together. I'll read some aloud, and you can read some too! As we read, think about how the children are feeling and what problems they face.

- **Chapter 1: The Four Hungry Children:** Who are the children? Why are they alone? What are they looking for?
- **Chapter 2: Night is Turned into Day:** Where do they find shelter? What clever things do they do?
- **Chapter 3: A New Home in the Woods:** What is their amazing discovery? Why is the boxcar special?

## Activity 1: Meet the Aldens!

Let's get to know the children better. In your notebook, draw a picture of each Alden child: Henry, Jessie, Violet, and Benny. Next to each picture, write one word that you think describes them based on what we've read. (Examples: brave, caring, clever, little, helpful).

## Activity 2: Word Detectives

Good readers are also word detectives! Let's look for these words in the chapters we read:

- **Orphan:** What does this word mean for the Alden children?
- **Resourceful:** How are the children resourceful in finding food and shelter?
- **Shelter:** What different kinds of shelter do the children find?

Talk about what each word means. Can you use each word in a sentence about the story?

## Activity 3: What Happens Next?

Oh no! The children are hiding, but will they be safe forever in the boxcar? What do you predict will happen next? Will they find dishes? Will someone discover their secret home? Write down or draw one prediction in your notebook.

## **Optional Fun: Build a Boxcar!**

If you have a small box, let's pretend it's the Aldens' boxcar! How would you decorate the inside? What would you use for beds or shelves? Use your crayons or markers to draw items inside the box, or just describe what you would put in their secret home.

## **Wrap-Up**

Great reading today! We met the Alden children, saw how clever and resourceful they are, and read about their exciting discovery of the boxcar. What was your favorite part so far? Keep your predictions safe – we'll check them next time we read more about The Boxcar Children!