

# ACTIVITY GUIDE



## ***The Cotton Candy Catastrophe at the Texas State Fair***

**Written by Dotti Enderle  
Illustrated by Chuck Galey  
(Pelican Publishing)**

### **Pre-Reading**

Look at the cover only. How do the animals look? Surprised? Worried? Scared?

What do you think *catastrophe* means?

Can you guess what will happen before hearing the story?

### **Language Arts**

Jake passed up the funnel cakes, the popcorn, the nachos, and the corn dogs to get some cotton candy. What other treats might you find at a fair?

Why couldn't Miss Pearl stop the machine? What would you have done?

*The barkers yelling "Step right up," stepped right in the icky mats of cotton candy.*  
What is a barker? Why would they yell "Step right up?"

Does Jake know that the cotton candy is behind him? Why not? What things could Jake be thinking about while he's walking?

*Midway through the midway, Jake came to his favorite attraction – the haunted house.* What are the different meanings of the word "midway" in this sentence?

Jake passes the livestock pen. Why do you think there are chickens, hogs, sheep, and steer at the State Fair of Texas?

What is the name of the Ferris wheel? Is it the largest in Texas? America? The world?

What did Jake see from the top of the Texas Star? What do you think the fair would look like from that high?

Who is the 52-foot cowboy? Is he a real cowboy?

*Folks shouted for help. "Call the police!" "Call the fire department!" "Call the Texas Rangers!"* Who are the Texas Rangers? What are some of the things they do?

Jake herds all the cotton candy into the Cotton Bowl. What is the Cotton Bowl?

After hearing *The Cotton Candy Catastrophe at the Texas State Fair*, make up your own story about Jake and the taffy.

## Math

On the carnival games page, count the number of circles. How many items have a cylinder shape? Which items are pointed? How many teddy bears? Dolls?

How many pages show the Texas flag? What shape is the flag? What shape is inside the blue portion of the flag?

How many times do these things appear in the book:

The Texas Star  
cowboy hats  
chickens  
Big Tex  
Longhorn steer

## Science

Give each student some cotton candy. What is the texture? Is it heavy? Light? Will it bounce? What happens if you dip it in water?

Fairs and carnivals are filled with sounds. Can you name some of the sounds you might hear at the State Fair of Texas? Can you imitate some of those sounds?

## **Art Project**

**Materials: paper, crayons, glue, pink cotton balls.**

**Have the students draw a picture of the State Fair of Texas. Give them each four pink cotton balls, and have them pull the cotton balls into thinner pieces, and glue them onto the page.**

## **Dramatic Play**

**Using pink yarn for the cotton candy, have the students act out the story. When the pink yarn wraps around each character, instruct them to shout, "Sticky! Sticky! Icky! Icky!"**