

# Reading Activity

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Pets: Real or Imaginary

**Hot Rod Hamster** by Cynthia Lord,  
illustrated by Derek Anderson



Discuss the meaning and significance of a pet: their membership in a family, place as a best friend, and the safety and comfort they can provide. Talk about any pets you had growing up as a child and the role they played in your life. Describe their physical and emotional attributes. Explain that not everyone is able to have a pet for various reasons (financial, health-related, responsibility-based, etc.). Explain that a pet, whether real or imaginary, can be a very special part of a person's life.

**Complete the activities below with your child.**

1. What different types of pets do people commonly own?

\_\_\_\_\_

2. If you could have any animal as a pet, what would it be and why? What would you name it?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. Give examples of two real pets and two imaginary pets.

**REAL**

**IMAGINARY**

1. \_\_\_\_\_

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

4. On a separate piece of paper, describe and draw a picture of the pets in the book you read.

5. Choose a pet (either real or imaginary). Share a picture of it (either a photograph or drawing) and tell your parents about how this pet is important to you.

6. Make a list of responsibilities you have when caring for your pet.

\_\_\_\_\_

**Bonus:** Find some magazines or newspapers at home. Look through them to collect different pictures of pets, either real or imaginary. Create a collage by cutting and pasting these pictures on construction paper.