

Rot, the Cutest in the World!

By: Ben Clanton

Illustrated: Ben Clanton

Synopsis: Rot loved eating stuff! Rot loved games! Rot loved contests! So when Rot saw the invitation to the "World's Cutest Contest", it was a challenge that as Rot couldn't pass up! But wait! He is up against an itty-bitty baby bunny, a little-wittle cuddly kitten and an eenie-weenie jolly jellyfish. How could Rot – a mud-loving mutant potato – compete? By just being himself!

Suggested Reading Date: Halloween – October
Hanukkah – December-ish

Activity Descriptions:

- Paint rocks (with acrylics) like Rot and using a sharpie, write an encouraging note on the back – spray with protective coating and hide around the school grounds or neighborhood!
- Using a brown paper lunch bag, crinkle it up, stuff with butcher paper, decorate Rot for a Halloween party!
- Make a T-chart and describe Rot on the inside (personality) and outside (physical). Make your own T-chart describing you – on the inside and out.
- Using a potato or the potato picture available on the webpage (if you can't print in color, print on tan or buff paper). Using construction paper, wrapping paper, fabric scraps, markers, chenille steams (pipe cleaners), etc. and dress up Rot!
- Using the kids own photos, or their own faces - have them use construction paper or makers and give themselves a unibrow – it worked for Jellyfish! Don't staple! Just use tape or glue on the kids!
- Make latkes during Hanukkah!
- List all of the adjectives used to describe the characters. What other ones could you use?

Related Websites:

- Time lapsed rotting potato - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IKGmdBl0n5o>
- Time lapsed sprouting potato - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JqTvqOdjR3w>
- Written interview with Ben Clayton – there are a lot of ads, so you might want to just read it instead of show it with all the Fat-Loss ads! But they have included primary sources about his process for the development of Rot - <https://readingwithmrteut.wordpress.com/2017/12/20/rot-the-cutest-in-the-world-interview-with-ben-clanton/>
- Paper bag Rot activity – It's a Fabulous Life - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m0n6Z-qzT8M>
- Rot : The Cutest in the World Read Aloud - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=suFLivLvmgU>
- Ben Clanton's website - <http://www.benclanton.com/>
- Latkes recipe - <https://www.epicurious.com/recipes/food/views/Potato-Latkes-104406>

Text to Text Connections:

Sophie's Squash – Pat Zietlow Miller

Potato Pants – Laurie Keller

Chester – Melanie Watt

Stand Tall Molly Lou Melon – Patty Lovell

Wild About Us – Karen Beaumont

I Like Myself – Karen Beaumont

It Came in the Mail – Ben Clanton

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