**Synopsis:** Sloth and Squirrel are good friends, but when Squirrel gets them jobs as pickle packers to earn money for a new bike, things do not go according to plan.

**Suggested Reading Date:**
- National Pickle Day, Nov 14
- Make a Friend Day, Feb 11
- National Bike Month (May)

**Activity Descriptions:**
- Start talking/promoting to kids about “Bike to School Day” in May. National Center for Safe Routes to School provides many resources: https://www.walkbiketoschool.org/
- Discuss what it means to work in a team. Sloth is slow, does that bother squirrel? What does sloth contribute? Squirrel? What does that look like at school? How can we do group activities so everyone helps?
- Do a teamwork activity:
  - Ray Center (Drake University) Teamwork Skills Lesson: https://raycenter.wp.drake.edu/2021/05/25/k-5-lesson-plan-teamwork/

**Related Websites:**
- Author website, Cathy Ballou Mealy: https://cathyballoumealey.wordpress.com
- Interview with Cathy Ballou Mealy about the book: https://deborahkalbbooks.blogspot.com/2021/05/q-with-cathy-ballou-mealey.html
- Video, “How It’s Done” Pickle Making: https://youtu.be/ETGrDcPrOZM

**Text to Text Connections:**
- *The Cookie Fiasco* by Dan Santat
- *Team Steve* by Kelly Collier
- *Sloth at the Zoom* by Helaine Becker
- *The Party* by Sergio Ruzzier

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