

Mystery Bag

Key idea: Solving problems

Getting started:

1. Greet the group and ask the members to introduce themselves.
2. Explain that today's session will start with a team problem-solving exercise. Explain that solving problems is a concept highlighted for the book being read today. You may want to share the definition of solving problems in the Key ideas table.

Activity:

To start the exercise, put some object in a paper or cloth bag and tape or tie it shut.

- Place the bag in the center of the group. If you wish, place written instructions or clues near the bag to help people guess what is inside. For example, an instruction might be "do not pick up," or you place a bar of soap in the bag with clues like "I like water" or "bubbles."

- Ask each person to find a partner. Give each team a pencil and paper. Give each team a chance to examine the bag. Each team should write down what they think is in the bag.
- Each team may ask the facilitator one question about what is in the bag.
- Gather the group together and ask each team to tell what they think is in the bag. Ask each team why they chose that object for their guess.
- Try to come to a group decision about what is in the bag.
- If the teams disagree, have them talk through their ideas until they agree about what is in the bag.
- After discussion, reveal what is in the bag.

This team problem-solving will relax the group and help them focus on the concept for today's book.

SUGGESTED FOR USE WITH THE FOLLOWING BOOKS:



A Bargain for Frances



**Count on Pablo
(Cuenta con Pablo)**



Lemonade in Winter



Sheep in a Shop



The Rag Coat



**Tia Isa Wants a Car
(Tía Isa Quiere
un Carro)**