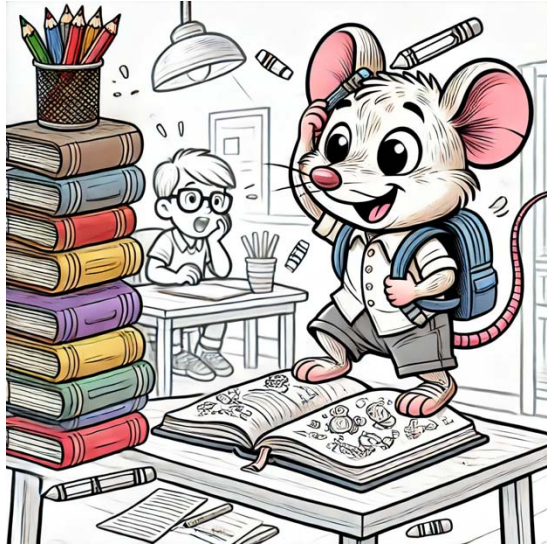


Name _____



Silly Surprises

One of the funniest parts of *If You Take a Mouse to School* by Laura Numeroff is the way it uses exaggeration to create humor. The story follows a tiny mouse who is bursting with energy and curiosity. But instead of acting like a normal animal, the mouse behaves in ways that are much bigger, funnier, and more unexpected than real life.

For example, as soon as the mouse gets to school, he doesn't just sit quietly in a corner—he takes over the day! He wants to see inside the backpack, sharpen pencils, and fill up a whole notebook with drawings. While most students might work on one picture at a time, the mouse fills up every page in an instant. This exaggeration makes readers laugh because it turns something ordinary—drawing in a notebook—into something completely over-the-top.

The humor continues when the mouse builds a house out of blocks. Instead of making a simple tower or a small design, he creates an elaborate structure that is big enough to impress everyone. The idea that a tiny mouse could build something so incredible adds to the comedy. It plays on the idea that when kids start a project, they sometimes get carried away—and the mouse takes this to the extreme!

Even at recess, the mouse doesn't just play a little; he runs, swings, and slides like a superhero. His boundless energy keeps the action moving and makes it clear that he is not an ordinary mouse. This wild exaggeration makes the story fun because readers know that a real mouse couldn't do all these things, but imagining it is hilarious.

By the end of the book, the humor comes full circle when the mouse suddenly remembers his backpack and goes right back to the beginning of his adventure. This is funny because it suggests that if you take a mouse to school, you might never get through a normal day! Everything in the story is stretched beyond reality to make the reader laugh and to show how unpredictable and exciting a school day can be—especially when a mischievous mouse is involved.