

## LET'S DISCUSS . . .

STERLING  
CHILDREN'S  
BOOKS

# LEAPING LEMMINGS!

*This discussion guide is designed for parents, teachers, librarians, and booksellers to explore the story's ideas, themes, and meaning with young readers.*



### **THEMES FOR DISCUSSION** PEER PRESSURE, INDEPENDENT THINKING

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#### **Questions to Ask Before You Read**

- What do you do when all of your friends are doing one thing, but you want to do something else?
- Is it hard or easy to be different from your friends? Why?

#### **Questions to Ask After You Read**

- The lemmings in the story all want to be the same. If one of them does something, the rest of them follow. Do people ever act like that? When?
- What are some words you would use to describe Larry? Do you think it was easy or difficult for Larry to be so different from the other lemmings?
- How did Larry convince his friends to think for themselves?
- Can you think of a time you were different from your friends? How did that feel?
- What are peers? What do you think the phrase “peer pressure” means? How can peers pressure each other?
- What are some ways you can learn to resist peer pressure, especially if the things your friends are doing don't feel right to you?

#### **Activity**

At the top of a blank sheet of paper, write a sentence that tells how you are different from your friends. Under the sentence, draw a picture of what makes you so unique.