

Lazy Lions, Lucky Lambs



ACTIVITIES:

- 1. When Richard finally began to write his story, it wasn't as hard as he thought. What are some things that help you to get started writing a story? Write them down as a list or paragraph.**
- 2. Richard finally decided to use Mr. Mancina, the principal, as the subject for his Real-Person story. Who would you choose to write about if you had this assignment? Why would you choose this person? Write this in a paragraph.**
- 3. Like Richard, good writers notice details. Think about a person or place you know. List all the details about this person or place. Write a story using these details.**
- 4. Make a newspaper or magazine ad for this book. Include a picture and tell why people should read the story.**

Themes: Responsibility, writing, self-improvement

Some books do hint at the difficulties that await writers, both novice and accomplished. For another, it's easy for a writer to get distracted. This obviously happens to Richard, in *Lazy Lions, Lucky Lambs* (1989) by Patricia Reilly Giff:

He thought about spiders. He wished he could write a story about them. Real ones. Giant size. He'd call his story 'Richard the Spider Boy.' This time Holly would be afraid. She'd be standing on top of the couch. She'd beg him to get rid of the spiders. He'd wait until they had crawled all over the place. Then he'd lasso them. They'd fall on the floor. They'd break into a zillion pieces. Just the way the blue statue had. Suddenly he remembered loose-leaf. He should have gotten some at the candy store. He thought about going back. It was too much trouble.