



## Valdemar's Peas

Maria Jönsson

### Synopsis

Peas? No way! Valdemar may be a little wolf, but he knows what he wants.

Valdemar swallows his fish sticks—one, two, three. Good! But then Dad says he has to eat his peas before he can have chocolate ice cream. Peas are so good for you and give you lovely long ears!

But peas are green and round and pointless, thinks Valdemar, and he already has long ears.

Little sister Lin, on the other hand, eats pea after pea and soon she has an ice cream in her hand. Unfair!

Until Valdemar gets an idea... He knows how to get the ice cream without eating even one little pea!

### The Author

Maria Jönsson was born 1958 in Gävle, Sweden, raised in Helsingborg, lives today in Höganäs and works as an illustrator and author. She has been a picture book illustrator since 1999 and has since released many books, as both author and illustrator.

### Themes

The central theme in this fun story is something anyone of any age can relate to: family meal-times. *Valdemar's Peas* is a cheeky account of one little wolf family having dinner and looks at the age-old battle of getting children to eat their vegetables. Level One Activities—Text (before and while reading)

# Activities

## Level One – Text (Before and While Reading)

1. Before you read the book, look at the cover (front and back) of the book. What can you tell about the story from the title, font, illustrations, and blurb? Think about the colours and style of illustrations and what they might tell you about what sort of story this is.
2. Either on your own or in pairs find the definition of the following words that appear in the story and then use them in a new sentence:
  - Pointless
  - Actually
  - Hopeless
3. “SHLURP” is an onomatopoeia (sound effect word), which is a word that is associated with or imitates a sound. As you read the book, look for other examples of onomatopoeia. Also, think about what eating noises annoy you. Do you mind if people slurp their food or chew loudly?

## Level Two – Responding to the Text and Reading Between the Lines (While Reading)

1. Valdemar and Lynn have fish fingers with their peas. In pairs discuss other good (or not so good!) food to have with fish fingers and/or peas.
2. Valdemar loves fish fingers and eats them whole. Are there foods you love so much that you (almost) eat whole? What happens when you eat food whole without chewing? How does it make you feel? Why is this? Discuss as a class.
3. Papa offers Valdemar ice cream as a bribe for eating his peas. What is a bribe and are there good reasons to use bribes? Discuss in pairs then share with your class. You might even like to create a short skit (play) that demonstrates how bribes can be used.
4. Name three objects that you can see on the kitchen bench.



## Level Three – Creating Based on the Text

1. “Vegetables give you long fine ears. Especially Peas,” says Papa. Why are peas important in our diets? What are other (true or false) sayings about different foods? In pairs make a poster that shows different sayings about foods and include information and/or illustrations to show what is fact and what is fiction. One saying you might like to include is: Crusts make your hair curly.
2. Draw a picture of your table at home (or a relative or friend’s home) as it looks for either breakfast, lunch, or dinner. It could be any everyday meal or it could be a special meal. Use only 3-4 colours like Maria Jönsson has.
3. Find an unusual or uncommon recipe for peas and then create your own recipe card. If you have the opportunity, make the recipe and share with your family or class.

## Level Four – Beyond the Text

1. Find the origin and meaning of the phrase: “Peas in a pod”. Do you know anyone who uses this phrase?
2. In pairs find five facts about peas. The more interesting and unusual the better! Share with your class.
3. There is a well-known fairy tale that features a pea. Do you know what it is and why the pea in this story is important? (clue: it involves a princess who is trying to sleep). Do you know of any other stories that feature peas?
4. What are some tricks you use at home to not eat your dinner? Are there rules or routines at your house around eating dinner? Discuss in small groups.

