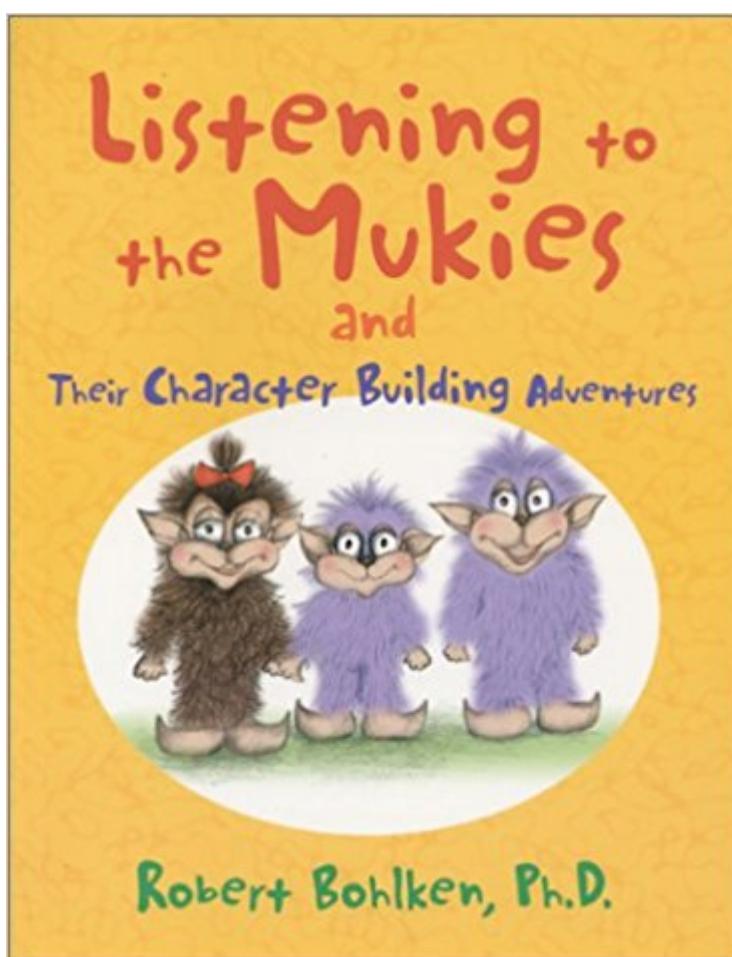


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# Listening To The Mukies And Their Character Building Adventures



## **Synopsis**

These eight short stories are intended to develop an insight into character building and enhance reading and listening skills. The stories are set in a primitive society in which the usually optimistic and happy Mukies (pronounced with a long u) work together to solve problems. These compassionate and wise characters demonstrate problem-solving techniques. They address character building skills such as respect, courage, cooperation, tolerance, honesty, and peaceful co-existence. The adventures of the Mukies reinforce and expand on the importance of listening to each other. Whether listening to themselves or their friends and family, they reveal the value of effective listening. The interactions of reader and listener are as important as the messages presented. Further questions and school/family activities are at the end of each story.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

Character building through listening and discussion is perfect! The end materials and questions in the text are really great." --Fran Mitchell, MS. Ed., Specialist in Education These clever creatures show that being open-minded and truly listening we can cope with issues of racism, violence, and aggression. -Kimberly Batty-Herbert, MA, President, International Listening Association Character building through listening and discussion is perfect! The end materials and questions in the text are really great. -Pamela Cooper, Ph.D. Professor of Communication Studies, Internationally known for communication expertise and storytelling What a wonderful concept-a great resource for character education. -Betty Bush, Ph.D. Professor of Curriculum and Instruction â provides framework for

teaching the much-ignored skills of listening and communicationâ | -Fran Mitchell, MS. Ed.,  
Specialist in Education

With major emphasis on character building in our schools today, and especially in light of wars and turmoil throughout the world, the Mukies show us how each individual can contribute to a peaceful society and make a difference. This primitive society of Mukies provides lessons that are relevant to today's youth. Their encounters help teach such values and character building traits as mutual respect, cooperation, wisdom, love and caring, responsibility, nondiscrimination, peaceful co-existence and many other skills children need to develop. There is a philosophical tone to the stories. Each is meant to teach in a subtle, interesting way. These stories also enhance listening and communication skills. Questions throughout each chapter, as well as questions and activities at the end, are designed to stimulate discussion and improve listening skills. The interaction of reader and listener is as important as the messages presented through the Mukie adventures. The clever Mukie illustrations are drawn by artist Michele Veasey. The illustrations are presented in black and white for the express reason that the author wants children to use their imagination in visualizing the actions of the Mukies. He wanted to rely less on images and more on the messages the characters teach. The author states, "the emphasis is on the message, and you create the images in your own mind." Mukie character figures such as seen on the front cover will soon be available on key chains. They can be used on children's back packs as "BackPack Buddies" or other uses.

This is a story about a primitive community of strange looking creatures called the Mukies. Their stocky bodies were covered with coarse spiky hair. Slow and deliberate in their movements they were optimistic, quick witted, and caring in their nature. Dr. Bohlken has written these eight delightful stories to augment reading and listening skills. The Mukies faced many of the same problems we face in our contemporary society. The purpose of these stories is to help the reader and the listener to better understand themselves through the experiences and adventures of the Mukies. The topic chosen for each of the eight stories is intended to develop insight into a specific character value. This theme is presented at the beginning of each chapter as a guideline in presenting the teaching objective. These topics include lessons on: problem solving, self esteem, relationships, mutual respect, guilt, prejudice, acceptance, and dealing with violence. The thought provoking questions used throughout the narrative are to be used as conversation starters as the children learn to express their ideas, opinions and experiences, as well as listen to those of their family or classmates. At the end of each chapter are more questions for review and discussion and suggested

activities to create and stimulate mutual understanding. Dr. Robert Bohlken has combined his skills as an educator, consultant, speaker, and writer to produce this delightful resource for children ages four through eight. The character illustrations created by Michele Veasey add immensely to the reading and listening enjoyment. This is a wonderful interactive book for the home or the classroom. It becomes a unique experience for every reader, listener, and participant; parent, teacher and child.

Written by educator and public speaker Robert Bohlken, *Listening To The Mukies And Their Character Building Adventures* is a very highly entertaining collection of children's stories that are not only enjoyable in their own right as simple entertainments, but which also serve a deeper purpose. These stories (which feature a charming race of furry creatures called Mukies), teach young readers about positive values, including tolerance, learning that an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure, and the importance of not letting emotions such as anger take control of one's actions. School or family activities, as well as thought-provoking questions pepper this educational and recommended anthology.

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