



ivy + BEAN

How to Have Fun Like Ivy and Bean!

There's no shortage of Ivy and Bean activities, but you probably don't want most of them to occur in your bookstore, classroom or library. The following is a selection of guaranteed (probably) non-catastrophic fun things to do.

1 Hang Spoons From Your Face

MATERIALS NEEDED: Metal spoons. As everyone who's read *Ivy and Bean Break the Fossil Record* knows, the world's record for greatest number of spoons hung from a face is fifteen, so some people will probably want to hang sixteen spoons from their face. Impossible! So ignore them and don't worry about having sixteen spoons for each person. Two will do. Maybe three.

PROCEDURE: The kid has to rub the spoon against her nose a few times to get the friction going. After a few rubs, it will probably stick to the tip of her nose. A lucky few will be able to make another spoon stick to their chin at the same time. Pretty cool. One in a thousand will be able to make a third one stick cheekily. They should be rewarded with a big pat on the back, which will make their spoons falla off. Some people breathe on the spoon before attempting stickage, and that is fine with us.

2 Easy-Peasy Manicure

Painting your fingernails is just too much trouble. Heck—growing fingernails is too much trouble. But fingernails are fun, especially when they're long and wavering. So, you can make your own.

MATERIALS NEEDED: Scotch tape and felt tip pens.

PROCEDURE: Take about three or four inches of Scotch tape and attach one end to the front of your fingernail. Then fold it more or less in half, so that the other end is attached to your finger. The part in your middle is your fingernail. You can make it any color with the felt pens, and if you're really feeling fancy, you can cut the tape into points.

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3 Wili Wonder Dance

Now that you've got the fingernails, you can do an interesting version of the ballet *Giselle*, just like Ivy and Bean do in *Ivy and Bean: Doomed to Dance*. The real story of *Giselle* is confusing and kind of boring, with dukes and villagers dancing around for some reason or other. But who cares about them? The Wilis are where it's at. These are ghostly ladies who chase people around, waving their long fingernails and looking spooky, until their victims—and any tired Wilis—collapse onto the floor.

MATERIALS NEEDED: once you've got the fingernails, you don't need any other materials.

PROCEDURE: The Wilis wave their fingernails alluringly at passersby and then circle around them and dance and dance and dance until they all collapse. The End.

4 Straws Galore!

All those fabulous *Ivy and Bean Break the Fossil Record* readers know that the world record for greatest number of straws in a mouth is 256 (gross!). This impressive record is going to be hard to break, but many people are curious to know just how many straws they can get in their own mouths.

MATERIALS NEEDED: Lots and lots of straws. The average seven-year-old can fit 45 straws in her mouth, but be prepared for bigmouths, too.

PROCEDURE: I'm sure you don't need me to go into detail. Each kid should just stuff as many straws as she can into her mouth. Whoever gets the most in wins.

Extra credit: After you're done with the contest part, you can all dip into a big tub of water and make bubbles.

5 Make-it-Yourself Potion

Ivy-and-Beanies know potions. Potions are magic mixtures that can be made from a variety of non-deadly ingredients found in the average house, yard, and sidewalk. Though everyone should be encouraged to make up a potion to suit her own needs, some extremely useful potions are:

- ★ Ghost-Be-Gone: gets rid of troublesome ghosts.
- ★ Neighbor Nicenup: changes unfriendly neighbors (like Mrs. Trantz) into jolly ones.
- ★ Sans-Souci-Sauce: It doesn't make your room cleaner, but it makes your parents not care anymore.
- ★ Gblldlx: makes older sisters tongue-tied and incapable of speech. Hooray!

MATERIALS NEEDED: Any old thing will do—old spices, dust, glue, weird food in the back of the cupboard, dirt, ground-up bricks, dead bugs, soap, spiderwebs, leaves, seeds, peels, hair, fur, raisins, you name it. Plus water. The only really important ingredient is food coloring, because otherwise, potions tend to look really disgusting. Alternatively, you can urge each potion-maker to bring her own ingredients or go on an ingredient quest. You will also need some spoons and enough see-through containers with lids for each kid.

PROCEDURE: Lay all the ingredients out on a table. Let them have at it. Keep an eye out for ingredient-hogging.

