



# PRESTO AND ZESTO IN LIMBOLAND

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## ABOUT THE BOOK

This marvelous tale tells the story of two friends, Presto and Zesto, and how they find themselves lost in the magical, mysterious place called Limboland.

Author Arthur Yorinks said: “Nearly twenty years ago, Maurice and I, inspired by our friendship, conceived this book about two friends making their way in a very mixed-up world.” The story indeed turns their world upside down and on its head as Presto and Zesto wander into the alternate universe of Limboland.

## STORYTIME ACTIVITIES

- **WHAT DAY IS IT?** Reread the first page of the story. Discuss how the narrator gets confused about what day of the week this story occurred. Ask the children how we keep track of the days (calendar) and tell them that they will be designing their own calendar to use at home. Younger children can decorate a calendar template, while older children can write the month, days of the week, and dates on a blank template.
- **SWEET TALK:** In this story, Presto and Zesto are in search of cake. Ask the children what their favorite desserts are, and have them draw, color, and cut out their most favorite treat. Then create a candy shop by affixing Post-it notes with prices on the pictures. Have children use plastic coins to “purchase” one of the treats. Then, if possible, to culminate this activity, bake a cake or other sweet treat with the children for them to enjoy.
- **WHAT PRESENT?** Presto and Zesto are searching for a wedding present. Ask the children to write about their favorite present. What was the gift? Who gave it to them? For what occasion was it? Why is it their favorite present? Have the children include an illustration with their writing.
- **RHYMING TIME:** Ask the children to point out the rhymes they hear (“Presto and Zesto,” and “Wham, bam, SLAM”) as you read the story. Then tell the children they will be creating their own rhymes. Younger children can play a rhyming game in which you say a word and then they must answer with a rhyming word (like “Bumbo” and “gumbo”) as quick as possible. Older children can work in pairs to write rhyming riddles, a rhyming poem, or a rhyming song to present to the group.
- **LAY OF THE LAND:** One day Presto and Zesto take a turn and find themselves in Limboland. Ask the children to describe Limboland. Would they want to live there? Why or why not? Then ask the children to imagine a place where they would love to live. What would it be called? What would it look like? Why would it be special? What could you do there? Give the children a large piece of paper to create their own “land” by making a detailed illustration. Ask the children to label all of the unique features of this special and imaginary place.

