

## **Activities** for *The Last Newspaper Boy in America*

- The chapters in this book are all written like they are headlines for a newspaper. Write 5 newspaper headlines that relate to some things you have done or some events in your life.
- The author sometimes uses what we might call “old time” words, like the word shenanigans on page 104, or brouhaha on page 102. Can you find any other “old time” words in the book, and what do they mean? Talk with your parents, grandparents or neighbors about words they know that they don’t see people using anymore. Take a look at the book *L is for Lollygag: Quirky Words for a Clever Tongue* published by Chronicle Books (no author listed).
- Design your own version of the “Cover the Spot” game.
- See if you can find a picture of the 23 foot talk paperclip statue in Oslo, Norway that was mentioned on page 202 of the book.
- Write a story of your family as an entry for the fair.
- Fragmented headlines, see pages 11-12. “Mosquito born” – sounded extra boring to Sonny, but the fragment actually was talking about a mosquito borne disease. Create some headlines, then create some wacky fragments as if the newspaper had been folded that way.
- Here’s a Site on teaching kids how to write a news story—writing tips listed further into the document:  
<http://wdtimes.net/NIE/Let's%20Write%20Newspaper%20Story.pdf>