

Title: Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs

Author: Judi Barrett

Publisher: Scholastic

Copyright year: 1978

Reading Level: 4th Grade

Genre: Fantasy

Synopsis of Story: This is a great story about a place where there are no supermarkets and all the food you need falls from the sky. It is a story about the town of Chewandswallow. Orange juice, hamburgers, and other foods fall from the sky when it is time to eat. But, one day, things get really messy and food falls from the sky uncontrollably. The people of Chewandswallow leave to find a more peaceful place to live.

Theme: Moving

Activity 1

Source: Mrs. Callahan (my 2nd grade teacher)

Objectives: The students will participate in a play to work on seeing events from a different perspective.

Activity: The students will put on a play. Some of them will be reporters, some cameramen and women, and others will be interviewed. They will put themselves in the shoes of the people in the book and report on their feelings about the weird weather and them having to leave home.

Activity 2

Source: <http://t3.preservice.org/T0110475/>.

Objectives: The students will learn about a computer program, about the weather, and about forecasting it.

Activity: After reading the book, make a list of all the foods that fall from the sky in the book. Then, talk about forecasting (in the book they forecasted the food just like weather people forecast our weather). Have the students go to the Weather Channel website and have them find the forecast for your hometown. Make sure you explain to the children the different weather symbols and terminology. Next, explain that they are going to make up a forecast meal for Chewandswallow. They can pick any meal they want and encourage them to be creative. Have the students draw this in the paint program on the computer. When it is done, students describe their meal and write a short summary like a forecaster would of the meal they will be having.

Title: Miss Smith's Incredible Storybook

Author: Michael Garland

Publisher: Scholastic

Copyright Year: 2006

Reading Level: 3rd Grade

Genre: Fantasy

Synopsis of Story: Zack thought this school year would be just as boring as the ones before. Boy was he wrong. His teacher, Miss Smith, brought stories to life, literally. One day, things got a little out of hand and all the characters of the book were running about the school. Zack needs to think fast if he is going to get the characters back into the book.

Theme: Being careful with other people's stuff

Activity 1

Source: Leanne Rakestraw

Objectives: The students will work on their writing skills and be introduced to book writing.

Activity: I thought it would be fun if the students created their own incredible storybooks. They could each get a blank book and have to write and illustrate a book of their own using familiar storybook characters (thee little pigs, Cinderella). Objectives for this activity would be to improve writing skills and introduce the students to book writing.

Activity 2

Source:

<http://soe.ucdavis.edu/ms0506/180E/ValenchichJ/read%20aloud.html>.

Objectives: The students will work on interviewing skills along with writing skills.

Activity: Students can pretend to interview their favorite fairy tale character. A set number of questions should be answered by the character they decide to interview. After the interview, students could draw a picture of them interviewing the character.

Title: My Lucky Day

Author: Keiko Kasza

Publisher: Puffin Books

Copyright Year: 2003

Reading Level: 1st Grade

Genre: Fantasy

Synopsis of Story: On accident, a piglet knocks on the door of a hungry fox and he thinks it is his lucky day. The fox intends to eat the pig, but the pig has different ideas. The pig tricks the fox into feeding him, bathing him, and even giving him a massage. The fox isn't so lucky after all. The piglet gets the last laugh in the story.

Theme: Knowing how to get out of sticky situations

Activity 1

Source: Leanne Rakestraw

Objectives: The students will compare and contrast this story with the original *Three Little Pigs*.

Activity: Since this book is a spin-off of the original *Three Little Pigs*, I thought the students could compare and contrast the two stories using a Venn diagram.

Activity 2

Source: Leanne Rakestraw

Objectives: The students will focus on character development and writing skills. T

Activity: The students could re-write the story from either the pig or the fox's perspectives. They would really need to use creativity to do this. They would need to express what their character was feeling, why he felt that, and why he did what he did.

Title: The Hippo-NOT-amus

Author: Tony and Jan Payne

Publisher: Orchard Books

Copyright Year: 2003

Reading Level: 3rd Grade

Genre: Fantasy

Synopsis: This story is about a hippo named Portly. He was tired of being a hippo, so he decides to go on an adventure to find another animal to be. He meets many different creatures like a rhinoceros, a bat, and an elephant. He tries to be each animal, but he's not really made out to be them. He eventually has to decide to continue on his adventure, or go home to his parents.

Theme: Being happy with who you are

Activity 1

Source: Leanne Rakestraw

Objectives: The students will work on using detail and adjectives in their writings.

Activity: A good activity for this book would be to ask the students if they have ever wanted to be something or somebody that they are not. Then, have the students write and illustrate about what or who they want to be most in the world. Make sure they use detail in describing exactly who or what they want to be.

Activity 2

Source: Leanne Rakestraw

Objectives: The students will see differences and similarities in animals.

Activity: Another activity would be to take a field trip to the zoo. At the zoo, point out different animals, their differences, and similarities. Once back in the classroom, have students draw, color, or paint their two favorite animals and then use a graphic organizer (Venn diagram) to write out their differences and similarities.

Title: The Bugliest Bug

Author: Carol Diggory Shields

Publisher: Candlewick Press

Copyright Year: 2002

Reading Level: 2nd Grade

Genre: Fantasy

Synopsis: Dilly the damselfly wanted to win the Bugliest Bug contest, but didn't think she was good enough. She didn't enter the contest and instead watch it from afar. There were many different bugs entered in the contest and Dilly knew that she had made the right choice not to enter. But, when the contest turns out to be a fake, Dilly will have to help the other bugs escape from the spiders. Can Dilly do it and become the bugliest bug?

Theme: Uniqueness

Activity 1

Source:

<http://www.butterflies.org/2nd%20prepost%20final1.pdf>

Objectives: The students will learn about the outside anatomy of an insect while creating a project.

Activity: Using different supplies (pipe cleaners, toilet paper rolls, paint, crayons, q-tips, etc) have the students create their own bugliest bug. Make sure each bug has 6 legs, 3 body parts, and wings (if they apply).

Activity 2

Source:

<http://www.butterflies.org/2nd%20prepost%20final1.pdf>

Objectives: The students will write a class story about a super bug, using detail and creativity.

Activity: Write a class story about a day in the life of Super Bug. What special powers does he have? Does he protect other bugs? How does he protect them? What does he look like? What adventures does he have? The story can be written on a big piece of paper or whatever is available. Then, have the students draw a picture of the Super Bug.