

Title of Book: Two Crazy Pigs

Author: Karen Berman Nagel

Copyright Year: 1992

Genre: Fantasy

Synopsis of Story: This story is most likely geared towards kindergarteners or first graders. It takes place on Mr. Fenster's farm with the two main characters being pigs. These two pigs love to play and are always getting on Mr. Fenster's nerves. One day though, they take it too far and he asks them to leave, so they head out to ask Mr. Henhawk if they could live on his farm. As it turns out, Mr. Henhawk loves the pigs and they all have a great time together. Eventually all of their friends from Mr. Fenster's farm come to live on Mr. Henhawk's farm with them.

Activity One: Crazy Pigs Comic

- From book, Literacy for the 21st Century by Gail E. Tompkins (page 58)
- Have students create a comic strip of what happened in the story on a piece of paper separated into six different boxes. When finished, have them share their comic strip with a partner and then hang them on a wall/board in the room or hallway for display.

Activity Two: How Crazy?

- Original
- Have students review the last scene where the animals are at the new farm: have each student choose an animal and pretend to be that animal and have a "class party" that represents the fun the animals are having together.

Title of Book: The Paper Bag Princess

Author: Robert Munsch

Copyright Year: 2002

Genre: Fantasy

Synopsis of Story: This story is presumably written at a first grade reading level. It is written by Robert Munsch for his daughter Elizabeth, who plays the princess in the story. Princess Elizabeth is set to marry Prince Ronald- that is until the dragon smashes their castle and prince-naps Ronald! When this happens, Elizabeth tries to find something to wear, but all she can get her hands on is a brown paper bag, so she puts it on and sets off to save her prince. Instead of fighting the dragon like you would see in most stories, the princess decides to trick the dragon so he is too tired to notice what she is doing. She has him show her how fast he can fly around the world, and how much fire he can blow out of his mouth- until he falls fast asleep! Once Elizabeth finally gets to Ronald, he does not want to marry her because she has a paper bag for a dress and she does not want to marry him because she realizes that he is rude, or a "bum".

Activity One: Paper Bag Puppet

- DTLK : <http://www.dltk-teach.com/rhymes/princessandfrog/mprincessbag.htm>
- Have students make a puppet out of a brown paper bag (lunch bag size) of what they think that the princess (or another character from the story) would look like.

Activity Two: Seeing the Other Side

- From book, Literacy for the 21st Century by Gail E. Tompkins (page 58)
- Have students write (or tell) this story in the perspective from Prince Ronald. How was he feeling waiting for Elizabeth to save him? How did the dragon treat him? Was he sad he didn't marry Princess Elizabeth? Have students share their stories with the class.

Title of Book: Click, Clack, Moo Cows That Type

Author: Doreen Cronin

Copyright Year: 2001

Genre: Fantasy

Synopsis of Story: In this story for the early elementary ages, students will learn about a group of sneaky cows that know how to get what they want. This story takes place on Farmer Brown's farm, where his cows type on their typewriter all day long. Farmer Brown is not very happy about this, and demands they stop typing. The cows agree to do this as long as Farmer Brown gives them electric blankets because they

are cold- he refuses. After this, the cows go on strike, along with the hens, who also want blankets. With no milk or eggs, the farmer has no choice but to give in, in exchange for the typewriter. After they receive the blankets, they give the typewriter to the ducks to give to Farmer Brown, but the ducks decide to hold it hostage, asking for a diving board!

Activity One: Vocab Pocket Chart

- Teaching Heart : <http://www.teachingheart.net/clickclackmoo.html>
- Put vocab words in a pocket chart and place pictures in a ziplock baggie. Have students match the picture with the correct vocab word.

Activity Two: Letter from Animals

- Teaching Heart : <http://www.teachingheart.net/clickclackmoo.html>
- Explain to class that cows are not the only animals that may be able to type; what would your pet (or any animal) say to you if they could possibly write you a letter. [Example: What if you had a dog that you didn't walk enough, what would it say to you?] Have the class write a letter from their pets to themselves (if they don't have a pet, have them pretend). What would it say? What would they want to change about the household? Would the pet be sad/crabby/happy? Why?

Title of Book: Monsters

Author: Russell Hoban

Copyright Year: 1989

Genre: Fantasy

Synopsis of Story: This story, probably intended for younger children (ages 4-8) is a lot of fun. John, the little boy in the book, loves to draw monsters! They are big, scary, violent, and he draws them all of the time and all over everything. One day, his parents begin to worry that maybe he should not be drawing so many monsters. They take John to Dr. Plunger, who prescribes him medicine (that doesn't work). After this, the doctor wants to have a talk with John; while they are talking, John draws him a monster on a very large sheet of paper- which came to life! When he left the office, his parents asked him what Dr. Plunger thought of his drawings, and with a smile, John said "What drawings?"

Activity One: Monsters Play

- From book, Literacy for the 21st Century by Gail E. Tompkins (page 59)
- Have students in class dress up like a character from the book and put on a play for the class of the storyline. Have students ask questions about the performance and discuss their favorite parts (and why) and discuss why it is important to have an imagination.

Activity Two: Monster Bookmark

- From book, Literacy for the 21st Century by Gail E. Tompkins (page 58)
- Have students create a bookmark with a picture of a scene from the book or a picture of a monster that they have drawn themselves.

Title of Book: Miss Smith's Incredible Storybook

Author: Michael Garland

Copyright Year: 2003

Genre: Fantasy

Synopsis of Story: Zack believes that second grade is going to be very boring, until he meets his new teacher- Miss Smith, who is very interesting and loves to tell stories. The whole class can tell that she is very different, and they know exactly why when she begins to read at story time- the characters come to life! From then on, Zack could not wait to go to school, but is surprised one day when Miss Smith is stuck in traffic and their principal was going to read to the class until she arrived. When the book came to life, he was very frightened, threw the book and went to get help. The students tried to get the characters to go back into the book, but they wouldn't go until Miss Smith got there and showed them that she meant business. When the principal returned and everything was normal, he was very confused.

Activity One: Fantasy vs. Reality

- Spoken Arts Media (adapted w/ original thoughts) : <http://www.spokenartsmedia.com/StudyGuides/Incredible%20Storybook.pdf>
- Have students create a list of what in the story was fantasy, and what was reality? What could really happen at school, and what could not? Have a class discussion and explain to students why these are so. Also talk about the characters that came to life in the books- what was Miss Smith reading for these characters to come alive? Who was their favorite character? What would the students say to them if they were in their classroom? Write responses in writer's notebook and have the students write a short story of what they think would happen if this was their teacher and/or classroom.

Activity Two: Incredible Play

- Spoken Arts Media : <http://www.spokenartsmedia.com/StudyGuides/Incredible%20Storybook.pdf>
- Develop a dramatic interpretation of part of the story. Have one child play the part of Miss Smith reading a storybook to the class. Select others to portray the characters from the book coming to life. Rehearse a brief dialog between the characters and the children in the classroom.

Title of Book: Going Places

Author: Richard Scarry

Copyright Year: 1971

Genre: Multicultural

Synopsis of Story: This book was created by the Look and Learn Library and is 184 pages long. It contains different characters from different parts of the world- New York, Australia, Scotland, Mexico, Rome..etc. In the story, Richard Scarry discusses popular places from these cultures and adventures that the characters go on. For example, Ernst Goat is a mountain climber in Switzerland and the book discusses some of the mountains he climbs. This book also describes and explains how we are able to travel to these different places, either by train, boat, car, or plane. Then goes on to describe the different kinds of these means of transportations- airplanes/jet fighter planes/jet jeeps.. cars/busses/trucks.

Activity One: Mini Scenes

- From book, Literacy for the 21st Century by Gail E. Tompkins (page 58)
- Have students construct a shoebox or other miniature scene of an episode from the book. Have them explain where their scene is from and why they chose that area? Is it a place they would like to visit someday (or have already visited)?

Activity Two: Research Project

- From book, Literacy for the 21st Century by Gail E. Tompkins (page 59)
- Have students research a place (or means of transportation) mentioned in the book and find several details or facts about their chosen place/transportation method. Explain to class their findings and draw a picture of themselves at the place or in their transportation. Publish pictures and findings on wall/board in classroom/hallway.

Title of Book: Ribbon Rescue

Author: Robert Munsch

Copyright Year: 1999

Genre: Multicultural

Synopsis of Story: In this story, Jillian is a Mohawk from the Kahnawaka Reserve near Montreal, Quebec. The ribbon dress that she wears is a traditional Mohawk costume. Jillian uses this dress in many ways to help a group of people going to a wedding get there and look nice for the wedding. She uses it for shoelaces, gift wrapping, hair..etc. When she finally gets to the wedding herself, she is a mess and the man

at the door will not let her inside because she is so dirty and her dress has holes from all of the missing ribbons. The family inside that she helped asked her to be their flower girl in the wedding so that she could come be a part of the ceremony since she helped them out so much.

Activity One: More Ribbons!

- Scholastic : http://www.scholastic.ca/bigbooks/Bigbook_RibbonRescue.pdf
- Imagine that there are more ribbons on Jillian's dress, and brainstorm other problems that Jillian might solve with them. Make a list on chart paper. Encourage the children to choose one item from the list, copy it onto a piece of paper, and illustrate it. You could put them together to create your own classroom album of "Jillian's Problem Solving."

Activity Two: Mural Map

- Scholastic : http://www.scholastic.ca/bigbooks/Bigbook_RibbonRescue.pdf
- Discuss maps with the students. Ask: What is a map? What are maps used for? What different kinds of maps have you seen? Explain that you are going to create a mural map showing the route from Jillian's house to the church.

Title of Book: Yo! Yes?

Author: Chris Raschka

Copyright Year: 1993

Genre: Multicultural

Synopsis of Story: This Caldecott Honor Book is about two boys who meet on the street. One boy in the story is black, and the other is white. The one boy is lonely and has no friends, and the other notices this and tries to think of what he could do. After a moment of hesitation, the black boy asks the white boy if he would like to be friends. The boy also hesitates at first, but then decides that it would be ok. In the end of the story, the boys become friends.

Activity One: Illustrations and Meaning

- Educator's Reference Desk :
http://www.eduref.org/Virtual/Lessons/Language_Arts/Reading/RDGoo2o.html
- Read Yo! Yes! by Chris Raschka to the class. Do not allow the students to see the pictures or the cover while you are reading the story. Use appropriate inflection while reading, but do not use different voices for the two characters.
- When finished, ask the students to elaborate upon what they think the story was about. Highlight any differences in opinion amongst the students. Explain that Yo! Yes! is an excellent example of a story that actually needs the pictures in order for its readers to fully comprehend. Explain that stories like this demonstrate how effective the use of visual clues can be in reading comprehension.
- Re-read Yo! Yes! , showing the pictures to the students as they read. When finished, ask students to elaborate upon what they think the story was about. Highlight the similarities in opinions this time.
- Using a new piece of comic strip paper, ask students to write a quick, six scene story that is dependent upon both words and pictures in the formation of meaning.
- Share several stories with the class, highlighting the importance of the illustrations in determining meaning.
- If there is time, ask students to share their stories with a partner.

Activity Two: Sequels

- From book, Literacy for the 21st Century by Gail E. Tompkins (page 58)
- Have students write another episode or sequel to the book. What happens after the boys become friends? Do they stay friends? Why or why not?

Title of Book: A Picture Perfect World

Author: Time Life for Children

Copyright Year: 1992

Genre: Multicultural

Synopsis of Story: This story is most likely geared towards kindergartners and/or first graders. It is about an Asian mother and daughter who travel all over the world to study different animal habitats. They learn about the plants, animals, and weather in all of these places. Also in this story, other cultures and races are represented. The other characters are white, black, Eskimo and Hawaiian.

Activity One: Create Your Own Habitat

- Original
- Have students discuss what type of habitat they would like to live in- it could be a combination of different habitats, or one that really exists. When they are done discussing, have them draw a picture of what their habitat would look like and share it with the class.

Activity Two: Habitat Collage

- From book, Literacy for the 21st Century by Gail E. Tompkins (page 58)
- Have students create a collage using different pictures that they can find of all the habitats found in the book. Give them or have them bring in pictures from magazines or the internet, or pictures they may have from a trip. When they are finished have them share their collages with the class.

Title of Book: Double Trouble

Author: Michael J Pellowski

Copyright Year: 1996

Genre: Multicultural

Synopsis of Story: Double Trouble is about two 10 year old twin sisters, Randi and Sandi, and their annoying two year old little brother, Teddy. In the story, the girls learn that they can trick everyone into believing that they are the other girl when Teddy gets them confused. The girls decide to switch places for a while, and things get very messy when Sandi pretends to be Randi at the soccer game. When the parents find out what happened, they make the girls babysit Teddy for two whole weeks.

Activity One: Alternate Endings

- Original
- Have students write an alternate ending to the book. What happens at the soccer game? Does Sandi still save the game or does she fail? What do their parents do? Is Randi mad about the game?

Activity Two: *Double Trouble*..again?

- From book, Literacy for the 21st Century by Gail E. Tompkins (page 59)
- Have the students read another book about the twins. Which book do they like better? Why? Which book was easier to relate to? Why?

Title of Book: Hannah is My Name

Author: Belle Yang

Copyright Year: 2004

Genre: Realistic Fiction

Synopsis of Story: Hannah is a seven year old girl who moves from Japan to San Francisco and has to start a new school without knowing how to speak English. Her parents are working jobs and trying to lay low while they wait for their green cards to arrive. Hannah worries a lot about her family getting deported because a girl in her class was deported with her parents because they did not receive their green cards. By the end of the story, Hannah has learned a lot of English, made friends, and her parents receive their green cards so they are able to stay in the United States.

Activity One:

- From book, Literacy for the 21st Century (page 58)
- Make a timeline of events that take place in the story.

Activity Two:

- From book, Literacy for the 21st Century (page 58)
- Have students keep a simulated journal from the perspective of Hannah in the story. Have the students describe what they think she might do, how she feels...etc.

Title of Book: Thank you, Mr. Falker

Author: Patricia Polacco

Copyright Year: 1999

Genre: Realistic Fiction

Synopsis of Story: Trisha, a little girl who lived in Michigan with her mother and grandparents, wanted to read so badly, but couldn't seem to do it. Children in her school made fun of her, and her teacher's skipped over her & did not try to help her. When she moved with her mother to California, she started a new school. However, she still could not read and the students were just as mean to her, if not more, than in Michigan. When she reached fifth grade, she met Mr. Falker, who helped her learn how to read and who never gave up on her. By the end of the year, she was able to read because of all the attention and help her teacher gave her. (True story)

Activity One:

- Original
- Have students write a letter to a teacher or someone that has a strong impact on their life.

Activity Two:

- From book, Literacy for the 21st Century (page 58)
- Get a large sheet of poster board and as a class, create a mural of a scene from the story.

Title of Book: My Rotten Redheaded Older Brother

Author: Patricia Polacco

Copyright Year: 1994

Genre: Realistic Fiction

Synopsis of Story: In this story, Patricia Polacco is a young girl with a “rotten” older brother, Richie. He always tries to do everything better than she can, and always succeeds at it. One day, Patricia makes a wish on a shooting star that she can do something, anything, better than Richie. When she rides the carousel at the fair more than her brother, she knows she finally won.. little does she know when she wakes up, that she fell, passed out, and had to get stitches, while her brother carried her all the way home and took care of her. This story is a good reminder of how to be careful what you wish for!

Activity One:

- From book, Literacy for the 21st Century (page 59)
- Make an open-minded portrait to probe the thoughts of either Patricia or Richie.

Activity Two:

- From, Reading to Kids: <http://www.readingtokids.org/Books/BookView.php?pag=3&bookID=00000049>
- Ask the children what it is that they do best or what they can do that no one else can. Have them draw a picture and tell the class about it (maybe demonstrate?)

Title of Book: Thunder Cake

Author: Patricia Polacco

Copyright Year: 1990

Genre: Realistic Fiction

Synopsis of Story: This story is also a true story of Patricia Polacco’s life in Michigan with her grandmother. There is thunderstorm that is moving in, and she is scared and hides under the bed. Her Babushka tells her to get up and help make a Thunder Cake to help ease her mind from the storm. They hurry to get all of the ingredients and Patricia has to be brave in a lot of different ways to make this cake. When it is finally done, the storm is finally at their farm and she is surprisingly, not scared anymore.

Activity One:

- From book, Literacy for the 21st Century (page 59)
- Make a plot diagram of the book.

Activity Two:

- From, Reading to Kids: <http://readingtokids.org/Books/BookView.php?pag=3&bookID=00000707>
- Have students bring in or make their own recipe that they would use to make a cake during a storm. Or follow the recipe in the book (listed on the back page) and make the “real” Thunder Cake as a class.

Title of Book: Russ and the Almost Perfect Day

Author: Janet Elizabeth Rickert

Copyright Year: 2000

Genre: Realistic Fiction

Synopsis of Story: This story is about a boy, Russ, who had a very good day (almost) all day long. From the time he woke up, he had good things happen to him; he found five dollars on the way to school, got to watch a movie, play outside, and was looking forward to buying ice cream at lunch with the money that he found. However, when Russ was in line waiting to buy his ice cream, there was a girl in front of him crying that she lost her lunch money that her grandmother had given her. Russ was sad because he wanted his ice cream, but decided the best thing to do was to give her back her money, so he did. After that, good things still kept happening.

Activity One:

- From book, Literacy for the 21st Century (page 59)
- Have students write a pretend letter to the local newspaper about the good deed that Russ had done. Discuss why it is important to do the right thing. Encourage students to be creative and use descriptions well.

Activity Two:

- Original
- Have students draw pictures of scenes from the story, then paste them in a book and write captions to go along with the pictures – making a scrapbook of events that took place in the story.

Title of Book: The Story of Ruby Bridges

Author: Robert Coles

Copyright Year: 1995

Genre: Historical Fiction

Synopsis of Story: This story is a true story about a young black girl who was ordered to attend an all white elementary school. It tells her story of how she had to deal with angry mobs everyday who did not want their children to be in school with her, so they did not send their children to school. Ruby went into an empty classroom for quite some time, learning by herself. Everyday she would pray for the people that said mean things to her, asking God to forgive them. After a while, the crowds grew tired of fighting, and began to send their children back to school.

Activity One:

- Original
- Go to the website of the REAL Ruby Bridges (<http://www.rubybridges.com/story.htm>)
- Have the students read the story and discuss and create a venn diagram comparing and contrasting the website and the story from the book.

Activity Two:

- Original
- Go to the website (http://library.thinkquest.org/JO112391/ruby_bridges.htm)
- Read to the students or have them take turns reading; discuss some of the ways Ruby handled herself against all the things and people that did not want her to go to their school. Then research and discuss other leaders in the Civil Rights movement. Have the students pick a leader and write a summary about that person and explain to the class how these people were important.

Title of Book: Henry's Freedom Box

Author: Ellen Levine

Copyright Year: 2007

Genre: Historical Fiction

Synopsis of Story: This is a story of Henry "Box" Brown who was a slave with his mother. When his boss became ill, he gave Henry to his son. Henry then met Nancy, who became his life and they had children. One day, Nancy and the children were sold, and Henry knew he would never see them again. To become free, Henry went to Dr. Smith, who helped him mail himself to freedom in Pennsylvania.

Activity One:

- From book, Literacy for the 21st Century (page 59)
- Write a script and present a play that follows the story.

Activity Two:

- From book, Literacy for the 21st Century (page 58)
- Write a poem related to the book. (How does Henry feel? What does he wish could have or would happen? What about Nancy?)

Title of Book: Her Seven Brothers

Author: Paul Goble

Copyright Year: 1988

Genre: Historical Fiction

Synopsis of Story: This is a story of an Indian girl who goes on a journey to find her seven brothers far away. These are all Plains Indians of the Cheyenne tribe. The girl brings the brothers beautiful clothes that she had made for them, and always takes care of them, as they do her. One day, a herd of buffalo come for the girl, but the youngest brother refuses to let them have her, so the eight Indians climb a large tree and are considered to be the seven stars in the Big Dipper.

Activity One:

- From book, Literacy for the 21st Century (page 58)
- Have students construct a mobile of different items from the story or things that are related to the Plains Indians tribes (shirts, moccasins, animals, people...etc).

Activity Two:

- From book, Literacy for the 21st Century (page 59)
- Research the author (Paul Goble) on the internet (also in the back cover of book) and compile the information on a poster to hang in the classroom. (class project)

Title of Book: The Yellow Star : The Legend of King Christian X of Denmark

Author: Carmen Agra Deedy

Copyright Year: 2000

Genre: Historical Fiction

Synopsis of Story: This is a story of King Christian X of Denmark in the 1940's, as WWII was going on in Germany. King Christian X supported all of his people, and did his best to protect them all when the

Nazi's invaded their land. When Jews were told to wear the yellow stars to single themselves out, King Christian wore a yellow star in solidarity with his people.

Activity One:

- From book, Literacy for the 21st Century (page 58)
- Make a book box and decorate it with scenes from the book. Collect objects, poems, and illustrations that represent characters, events, or images from the book to add to the box.

Activity Two:

- From Holocaust Teacher Research Center: http://www.holocaust-trc.org/yello_lp.htm
- Follow the reading of The Yellow Star by reading aloud the novel Number the Stars by Lois Lowry. In introducing the novel, note the fact that it is set in Denmark during World War H and discuss with the students what they think will be similar in the two stories. As you read, continue to make connections between the two books. At the conclusion of the reading, discuss whether the books represented the Danish people in the same way. Have students write in a response letter their feelings on their books and any connections they may have made throughout the readings of the stories.

Title of Book: The Village That Vanished

Author: Ann Grifalconi

Copyright Year: 2002

Genre: Historical Fiction

Synopsis of Story: This is a story of a young girl, Abikanile, who lived in the forest in the village of Yao. When her village heard that the slavers were coming to take them away to be sold for their labor, they needed to think of a plan so that they would not be found. Abikanile's mother, Njemile, suggests that they move across the river into the woods and make sure to tear down their village before they leave, so it would look as if they were never there. As it turns out, her plan works and this is the story of how their village was saved from slavery.

Activity One:

- From book, Literacy for the 21st Century (page 58)
- As a class, have students create a newspaper with news stories and advertisements based on characters and episodes from the book.

Activity Two:

- Original
- Have students write a poem/ "prayer" that Abikanile or others from her village may have used to talk to the ancestors to ask for help or strength to get through their hard times.

Title of Book: The Wonder of Bald Eagles

Author: Eileen Foran

Copyright Year: 1991

Genre: Non-fiction

Synopsis of Story: This book is all facts and descriptions of the endangered species that is the bald eagle. Eileen Foran includes interesting information, such as the wing span of this bird can be anywhere from 7-8 ft long and that the females are larger than the males. Foran also includes a glossary in the back of the book with words that are used throughout the book that may be unfamiliar with the reader (such as carrion or fledging). The book also takes into account that the bald eagle gets its name from the Old English term “balde”, meaning “white”. There are also fun facts in the book, such as the sizes of the largest bald eagle’s nest ever found (9 ft wide x 12 ft deep)!

Activity One: The Big Book of Happy : Michelle Kennedy

- Bird Mask: Have the students paint a paper plate with a bird face (of a bald eagle). When dry, glue on feathers and a cardboard beak. Cut out holes for the eyes and glue a popsicle stick to the back for a handle.

Activity Two: Original

- Endangered Species Research Project: have students research other endangered animals (other than the bald eagle) and find a way to present their animal to the class, either posterboard, power point, paper..etc.

Title of Book: Creepy Crawlies

Author: John Stidworthy

Copyright Year: 2000

Genre: Non-fiction

Synopsis of Story: Stidworthy does a great job of telling fun and interesting facts and descriptions. These “creepy crawlies” include spiders, scorpions, termites, ants, bees, snails and slugs. There is a picture included with each description. A fun fact that is included is that the fastest snail can only go up to a speed of about 0.03 mph. Another fact that is included states

that the largest earthworm measured was 3 ft 3 in big, while giant earthworms can reach sizes of up to 10 feet and are located in Australia, Oregon and Washington.

Activity One: The Big Book of Happy : Michelle Kennedy

- **Guess the Insect:** show the children pictures of insects such as bees, grasshoppers, and ants. Ask the children to imitate you as you demonstrate the movement of each insect. For example, buzz around the room with arms extended like a bee. Take one child to the side and show him a picture of one of the insects. Then ask the child to move like the insect while the other children guess what it is.

Activity Two: Big Book of Happy : Michelle Kennedy

- **Bug Identification:** cut out pictures of various bugs (spiders, bees, flies, beetles, ants) from magazines. Give the pictures to the children. Ask them to go outside and see if they can find bugs that match the pictures.

Title of Book: I Wonder Why Spiders Spin Webs

Author: Amanda O'Neill

Copyright Year: 2000

Genre: Non-fiction

Synopsis of Story: This book is broken up into sections, each labeled by a question. There are fun facts, descriptions, and stages all included in the information. For example, did you know that the mother earwig makes the best mother out of all insects?

Also provided are pictures of each different spider and insects that are included in the book.

Finally, there are definitions provided by O'Neill, classifying what actually constitutes a "bug".

Activity One: Big Book of Happy : Michelle Kennedy

- **Ant Picnic:** divide a paper plate into sections with a black marker. Place various food items on the plate (crackers, sugar, lettuce). Set the plate outside on a nice warm day, in a quiet shaded area where you have seen ants. Check back after one hour to see what has happened. Check again after two hours. Which foods have the ants taken/left? Ask children which foods ants like best.

Activity Two: Big Book of Happy : Michelle Kennedy

- **Picture Scavenger Hunt:** make a scavenger hunt list with pictures you have drawn on a sheet of paper. You could draw a worm, spider, or any other insect. Then let the hunt begin.

Title of Book: I Wonder Why Snakes Shed Their Skin

Author: Amanda O'Neill

Copyright Year: 2000

Genre: Non-fiction

Synopsis of Story: The sections of the book are broken up by questions about snakes, reptiles, lizards, crocodiles, turtles and dragons. Provided are examples of which animals are reptiles. The book also includes reasoning and spells out why snakes have teeth and fangs, along with information on how different reptiles move. There are also pictures (mostly cartoon) and fun facts. For example, tortoise's shells can heal if they are damaged.

Activity One: Big Book of Happy : Michelle Kennedy

- Make a Book: have students cut out pictures of different snakes and other reptiles. Glue on paper and label each picture. Make a cover, and bind the pictures together to make a book on reptiles for the children to keep.

Activity Two: Big Book of Happy : Michelle Kennedy

- Indoor Pond: place some play sand in a large bucket. In the middle of the bucket, dig a hole in the sand large enough for a plastic tub to fit in, and fill it with water. Use play reptiles and place them in or around the water, depending on what habitat they live in. Let the children explore your indoor pond!

Title of Book: Red-Eyed Tree Frog

Author: Joy Cowley

Copyright Year: 1999

Genre: Non-fiction

Synopsis of Story: Cowley tells a short story of the daily activities of a red-eyed tree frog in the rainforest. The book explains what the tree frog does, eats, and hides from. In the back of the book, there is a list of many facts on the red-eyed tree frog. It lists where they are found, what sounds they make, and other facts, such as how it hides itself while it is sleeping. The pictures are very depictive of the life of the frog and there are also some pictures that are actual life-size so that the child can have a real mental image of how big the frog really is.

Activity One: Original

- **Obstacle Course:** set up a classroom obstacle course that is similar to what the tree frog might go through in the rainforest. For example, there could be “snakes”, “caterpillars”, “bats”, and leaves for safety.

Activity Two: Big Book of Happy : Michelle Kennedy

- **Feeding Game (adapted):** buy some animal plates and tape them to the wall. Have children feed each animal what they think those animals should eat.

Title of Book: Weird Parents

Author: Audrey Wood

Copyright Year: 2000

Genre: Realistic Fiction

Synopsis of Story: A little boy has weird parents who he is constantly embarrassed by. He wishes they were “normal” like the other kids’ parents. Then, he wished everyone else’s parents were weird too. Although he knows this is never going to happen, he loves them anyway. This is a good story for children to read to know they’re not alone when their parents are embarrassing them.

Activity One: Big Book of Happy : Michelle Kennedy

- **Family Puzzle:** have students cut out pictures of their family members while making silly faces. Make a puzzle for students to keep.

Activity Two: Heather Schilling

- Story Hat: make a newspaper hat out of white paper- top of hat on front side write author's name & title of book; divide front brim into 3 sections (draw scenes in each section from beginning, middle & end of story); divide back brim into 2 sections (problem/solution in each section)

Title of Book: Don't Talk to Strangers

Author: Christine Mehlhaff

Copyright Year: 2007

Genre: Fantasy

Synopsis of Story: Emma Lion loves to make new friends. However, her mama tells her to be careful and never talk to strangers. Her brother, Matthew, tries to help her know who a stranger is. He gives her examples and tells her who she can go to for help. At the end, Emma understands what her brother has been teaching her. This is a good book to teach children about safety.

Activity One: Heather Schilling

- Main Idea Belt (adapted): Brainstorm a few significant events from the story or stages of character development. Draw & cut out 6 large circles & 12 small circles. Glue small circles to front/back of large circles. First circle: title/author of book & on back: student's name. Remaining disks: picture of event/stage on front, on back: sentence describing the picture.

Activity Two: Original

- Practice safety with children. Put on skits/simulations of talking to strangers & some of the outcomes that could happen. Also, safety video could be appropriate if available.

Title of Book: Froggy Goes to School

Author: Jonathan London

Copyright Year: 1996

Genre: Fantasy

Synopsis of Story: Froggy is very excited for his first day of school. When he wakes up in the morning, he realizes that he got on the bus with just his underwear on- until he wakes up and realizes that it was just a dream. When he wakes up for school (for real, this time), he gets all ready and leapfrogs all the way to the bus stop. Finally, when Froggy arrives at school, he has a blast reading his name and teaching his classmates (and Principal!) how to swim. However, later when he gets home, his mother realizes that he left his hat and lunchbox at school. He tells his mom not to worry- he is going to school to learn!

Activity One: Heather Schilling

- Character Stamp: develop a stamp to commemorate Froggy from the story. Include a picture, selected phrase & stamp value.

Activity Two: Original

- Desk Nametag: have students create a nametag for their desk, pretending it was their first day of school and no one else knew their name very well yet. Let them be creative and use different types of media or decoration styles for their tags.

Title of Book: Don't You Want to be My Friend?

Author: Eric Carle

Copyright Year: 1997

Genre: Fantasy

Synopsis of Story: This picture book tells a story of friendship. A mouse wants to make a new friend, and asks many different animals to be his friend. However, the mouse is rejected and/or chased by all of the animals he asks. Until he meets another mouse, he has no friends. The other mouse that he becomes friends with helps him become less lonely and they hide together from the hungry snake!

Activity One: Heather Schilling

- Character Yearbook Snapshot: select 3-4 characters from the story and draw pictures similar to that character. List the following items under the name: nickname,

activities/clubs/sports, quotation of that character, favorite music/hobbies, voted “most likely to...” by class, plans after school.

Activity Two: Heather Schilling

- Setting Pamphlet (adapted): have students create a pamphlet describing why some animals in the story did not want to be the mouse’s friend. Divide paper into 4-5 sections, each labeled with a different animal from the story. Under each picture/name, write their ideas why or why not that animal could be friends with a mouse.

Title of Book: Piggy and Dad Go Fishing

Author: David Martin

Copyright Year: 2005

Genre: Fantasy

Synopsis of Story: When Piggy wakes up, he is so excited to go fishing for the very first time with his dad. He gets ready while his dad gets their supplies together, and they head off to find some worms for bait. However, when Piggy sees the happy worm, he decides to use bread for bait instead of hurting the worm. When he finally catches a fish, he decides again, to put it back because he feels bad for taking the fish out of its home. From then on out, Piggy and his dad have a tradition of just going fishing by feeding the fish instead of catching them!

Activity One: Original

- Have students create a list of all the activities they enjoy doing with their parents. Present that activity by standing up in front of the class to tell about the activity. The parent may come in for the discussion if they wish.

Activity Two: Big Book of Happy : Michelle Kennedy

- Fishing Fun: draw or print out pictures of fish and other sea creatures, then cut out and attach paper clips. Make a pole by tying a length of string to the end of a pencil and glue a magnet to the other end of the string. Have the students fish for their sea creatures!