Lesson: Creating and Acting Mammal Stories (Storytelling/Creative Dramatics)

Grade Intended 5th grade          Length 20-30 minute sessions per day for one week

Academic Standards: English Language Arts 5.5.1 Write narratives (stories) that: establish a plot, point of view, setting, and conflict. Show, rather than tell, the events of the story.

Performance Objectives: During the storytelling performance, the students will use the four characteristics of a narrative correctly with 100% accuracy.

When given a worksheet, the students will answer all questions about a narrative story with 100% accuracy.

Advanced Preparation by the Teacher: The teacher will first split the class into four groups of varying ability levels. The teacher will then select the mammals that will be used in the stories (Polar Bear, Kangaroo, Whale, Human, Cow, and a Monkey) and print them out on a sheet of paper. Also, on the sheet of paper the teacher will write what must be included in the narrative story (establish plot, point of view, setting, and conflict). The teacher will provide laminated construction paper, string, a hole punch, and markers for the students to create character name tags. The teacher must also make sure to have a variety of books for the students to use for story ideas.

Procedure:
Introduction/Motivation: During the past week we have been studying a variety of mammals and we have read many stories about these mammals. Today we are going to put our creative hats on and become authors of our own stories.

Step-by-Step Procedure:
1. The students will be given their groups (6 or 7 per group) and the paper with the criteria for the story.
2. After the criteria sheets have been passed out the teacher will review the parts of a narrative story with the students. For example: What does it mean to establish a plot? (Bloom’s Taxonomy- Comprehension) How could you show point of view? (Bloom’s Taxonomy- Application) What is the setting of a story? (Bloom’s Taxonomy- Knowledge) How would you use conflict in a story? (Bloom’s Taxonomy- Application)
3. The students will then decide which character will be portrayed by whom.
4. The students will create name tags for their character that they will wear
during the storytelling performance.
5. The students will then be given time to write their stories and rehearse before they will present them to the class.
6. As the students are writing their stories, the teacher will walk around the room observing the students, answering questions, and making sure that the students stay on task.
7. On the final two days of the storytelling lesson, the students will tell and act out the story in front of their peers. (Two groups will go per day.)

During this lesson the following Gardener’s Multiple Intelligences are used: Visual/Spatial, Verbal/Linguistic, Bodily/Kinesthetic, Intrapersonal, and Interpersonal.

The storytelling lesson is also a creative dramatics lesson.

Closure: Since you all worked very hard and did a wonderful job telling stories and acting them out, we are going to make mammal cookies.

Adaptations/Enrichment: The students that are learning disabled in oral communication will be able to participate in the lesson by acting their parts without having to speak aloud, if need be. For students that are gifted and talented, they will be challenged to use more details and descriptive words.

Self-Reflection: The teacher will reflect on if the students were engaged and were able to grasp the four characteristics of a narrative story. The teacher may also reflect if the students had enough self-control to complete this lesson.
The following characters must be used during the story you create: Polar Bear, Kangaroo, Whale, Human, Cow, and a Monkey. You may give these animals appropriate names.

A name tag will also be created for the animal that you choose to be in the story.

The story that you create must include the four characteristics of a narrative story, which are listed below.

- Plot
- Point of View
- Setting
- Conflict

You will not only be telling the story to your classmates, but you will be acting it out, as well. HAVE FUN!

Instruction Sheet for Storytelling

The following characters must be used during the story you create: Polar Bear, Kangaroo, Whale, Human, Cow, and a Monkey. You may give these animals appropriate names.

A name tag will also be created for the animal that you choose to be in the story.

The story that you create must include the four characteristics of a narrative story, which are listed below.

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What is...?
Directions: Give the definition for each term listed below.

1. PLOT-

2. POINT OF VIEW-

3. SETTING-

4. CONFLICT-