

Title: No is No, Si is Yes

Author: Ana Galan

Publisher: Kumquat

Copyright Year: 2005

Reading Level: 3rd Grade

Genre: Multicultural

Synopsis: This is a great book for beginning Spanish speakers. It would also work for children who are just learning English. The book has common phrases and words used. It also has both the English and Spanish word. There are transportation words, colors, feelings, and common phrases such as "how are you?"

Theme: English and Spanish words

Activity 1

Source: Leanne Rakestraw

Objective: The students will match the body part words (in Spanish) to a picture.

Activity: The students will receive a picture of a human with lines coming from its feet, hands, legs, and arms. The students, using a word bank, need to write the Spanish word that corresponds to the picture.

Activity 2

Source: Leanne Rakestraw

Objective: Using the words in the book, the students will learn vocabulary.

Activity: Play BINGO with the students. Give them a blank bingo sheet and have them write 24 English words in the spaces (there will be a free space). Then, the teacher will say the words in Spanish and the students will have to translate those words into English.

Title: The Great Change

Author: White Deer of Autumn

Publisher: Beyond Words Publishing

Copyright Year: 1992

Reading Level: 5th

Genre: Historical Fiction

Synopsis: Wanba wants to know the meaning of death. Her grandfather had just died and she wanted to know why everything died. Her grandmother answers, "So the Circle of Life is never broken." She says dying means a change. They take from Mother Earth what is needed and they return to her when they die.

Theme: Death

Activity 1

Source: Leanne Rakestraw

Objective: The students will create their own meaning for growing old.

Activity: Instead of explaining death, have the students explain the meaning of growing old. Have them be creative and welcome any ideas that they have.

Activity 2

Source: Leanne Rakestraw

Objective: The students will write a story from the point of view of Wanba.

Activity: The students will pretend to be Wanba and write a story. Tell of her feelings and what she is thinking. Does she believe what her grandmother is saying? How would they feel if they were Wanba?

Title: A Bad Case of the Stripes

Author: David Shannon

Publisher: The Blue Sky Press

Copyright Year: 1998

Reading Level: 1st grade

Genre: Fantasy

Synopsis: Camilla Cream loved lima beans, but she never ate them because she didn't want to be seen as weird. One day, she woke up with stripes all over her body. Throughout the day, they changed colors and at one point she even became her room! Then an old lady came to the door claiming she could help. The woman gave Camilla lima beans and she was cured.

Theme: Be yourself

Activity 1

Source:

<http://www.scholastic.com/earlylearner/timetgether/preschool/stripes.htm>

Objective: The students will think of different things with stripes and make a collage.

Activity: Ask your child if she's ever heard of a striped person. Of course not! But there are many other places you might find stripes — on animals, on clothing, and even on wallpaper. Have the students look through magazines and newspapers for pictures of stripes. Cut out the pictures and make a collage.

Activity 2

Source:

http://www.readwritethink.org/lessons/lesson_view.asp?id=377

Objective: The students will brainstorm the feelings Camilla would have been feeling.

Activity: Have students brainstorm with a partner all the emotion words they can think of that would describe how Camilla might have felt. Have each pair choose two words from their list, and write each word on a Post-it note to bring to the front of the class. Read the words aloud and sort them to see which emotions appear most frequently. Then record the class list on chart paper.

Title: Andy and His Yellow Frisbee

Author: Mary Thompson

Publisher: Woodbine House

Copyright Year: 1996

Reading Level: 2nd Grade

Genre: Realistic Fiction

Synopsis: Andy has autism and is very peculiar to the new girl at school, Sarah. During recess, Andy just spins his yellow frisbee. She tries to talk to him and get him to teach her to spin her pink frisbee, but he doesn't even look at her. Rosie, Andy's sister, is nervous that Sarah is trying to play with Andy. In the end, Rosie and Sarah become friends.

Theme: Autism

Activity 1

Source: Leanne Rakestraw

Objective: The students will learn about autism and write about it in a journal.

Activity: Through mini-lessons the teacher will teach the children about autism. They will then write their feelings and thoughts about the disability in a notebook. They should also mention if they know anybody with autism.

Activity 2

Source: Leanne Rakestraw

Objective: Students will realize that everyone is unique.

Activity: The students will draw a picture of themselves on a piece of paper or poster board. They will then write words around themselves that make themselves unique. They can also draw pictures to illustrate their uniqueness.

Title: We'll Paint the Octopus Red

Author: Stephanie Stuve-Bodeen

Publisher: Woodbine House

Copyright Year: 1998

Reading Level: 2nd Grade

Genre: Realistic Fiction

Synopsis: Emma has a new brother, Isaac. At first, she didn't want him, but her and her dad thought of fun things that they could do together. She decided that having a brother wouldn't be so bad. But one day, they received word that Isaac had Down syndrome. Emma was scared Isaac wouldn't be able to do all the fun things she had planned, but she was wrong!

Theme: Down syndrome

Activity 1

Source: Leanne Rakestraw

Objective: The students will write about Emma's feelings.

Activity: Have the students write about Emma's feelings throughout the book. How do they change during the story? How would you feel if you were Emma?

Activity 2

Source: Leanne Rakestraw

Objective: The students will learn about Down syndrome.

Activity: I think this is a good idea, if it is available. Have a person with Down syndrome come and talk to the class. It might be hard to find someone who could do it, but it could be done (I have an aunt who has Down syndrome who would be fully capable of it!). Also, the teacher will have to explain the physical and mental differences of a person with Down syndrome. Have them talk about their life and their struggles. Then let the students answer any questions that they have. Afterwards, have the students write their reactions to their guest speaker in a journal.