

Children's Literature Across the Curriculum Ideas

Created by students at the University of North Carolina Charlotte

Title: *Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day*

Author: Judith Viorst

Illustrator: Ray Cruz

Publisher/Copyright: Aladdin, 1972 Grade: 1 - 5

Summary: One day when everything goes wrong for him, Alexander is consoled by the thought that other people have bad days too.

Reading/Writing Connections

1. Have students write a story about a time that they had a really bad day. Did it get better? What happened to change your feeling?
2. Students will write about a place they would like to move to when they are having a bad day. Why did they choose this area? What would they do there? Could this have happened there also?

Vocabulary

Australia	breakfast	cavity	cupcakes
dentist	dessert	elbow	horrible
invisible	pajamas	sailboat	sixteen
skateboard	Strawberry	terrible	window

Communication Arts Connection

1. Play for the students a tape of the didgeridoo. Have them describe what they hear. Is the instrument long or short? Does it make the sound of an animal? Show them a picture of the instrument and play more music for them.
2. Find a video, if possible, of the aborigines playing these instruments.
3. Decorate a tennis shoe for Alexander to wear. Remember, he does not like plain white.

Library Connection

1. Read other books that talk about having a bad day. Giff, Patricia Reilly. *Today was a Terrible Day*. Viking Press, 1992; Sharmat, Marjorie Weinman. *Mitchell is Moving*. Macmillan, 1978.
2. Do research on the country Australia. Put together a book with interesting facts about Australia.

Social Studies Connection

1. Can you find the meaning to these Australian words? Do we have words in America that are slang?

Aussie	boomerang	bush	didgeridoo
down under	G'day	mate	outback

2. Have the children find Australia on the map. How long would it take to get there by plane?
3. Contact a local travel agent and have them send you information on Australia the students can look at and learn from. What is there to do there?
4. Make a Venn diagram and compare Australia to the United States.

Science

1. Have the students find what kinds of animals live in Australia. Allow them to research their animal and tell the class about it. This can also be done in pairs.

2. What is the Great Barrier Reef? Watch the *Magic School Bus Explores the Ocean* to learn more about what you find in the Barrier Reef.

Math

1. Sixteen is the number Alexander forgot in the book. Have the students complete different activities having to do with the number. How long will 16 paper clips be?
2. Come up with math story problems using the number 16.
3. Outside, can you find 16 of anything?
4. How many tens and how many ones are in 16?
5. How many different ways can you come up with \$.16?
6. What grade will you be in when you turn 16?