

Children's Literature Across the Curriculum Ideas

Created by students at the University of North Carolina Charlotte

Title: *Baby*.

Author: Patricia Mac Lachlan

Publisher/Date: Delacorte Press, 1993

Grade Level: 3-6

Summary: By caring for a year-old baby left behind as summer ends the tourist season, an island family learns to accept the death of their own infant son.

Reading/Writing Connections

1. Write your earliest memory.
2. Find out what your first sentence was.
3. Write about which color makes you happy. Tell why.
4. Pretend Sophie could answer her mother's letters. Write the replies for her.
5. Read poems by Edna St. Vincent Millay.
6. Read poems by William Carlos Williams.
7. Read a Shakespeare sonnet.
8. Write an edition of Papa's island newspaper.
9. Play "Paper, Scissors, Rock" with a partner.

Vocabulary/Spelling

anguished	canvas	cemetery	chickory	editor
electricity	fading	ferry	grieving	marble
overcome	painting	poetry	redundant	rhythm
spiking	squishing	studio	study	tottering

Library Connections

1. Read other books by Patricia MacLachlan - *Sarah, Plain and Tall; Skylark; Journey; Through Grandpa's Eyes Three Name; Mama One, Mama Two; All the Places to Love; Unclaimed Treasures*.

Drama Connections

1. Have everyone in the class wear plaid. Role-play memories of the first day of school.

Science/Mathematics Connections

1. Learn the names of clouds.
2. Find out why the ocean and tears are salty.
3. Sequence language development in babies by making a list of everything Sophie said as a child.
4. Find out why Lalo's Mother's ideas about electricity were flawed.
5. Research the beach birds from the book: Sanderlings, purple sandpipers, black-bellied plovers, herring gulls, and cormorants.
6. Find out how pearls are formed.
7. Research rubies.
8. Figure the probability of rock/rock in playing "Paper, Scissors, Rock"
9. What would you buy for Sophie with her five dollars of birthday money?

Social Studies Connections

1. Brainstorm a list of reasons why parents abandon children.
2. Invite a social worker for Child Protection Services to speak to the class.
3. Draw a map of the island labeling important places in the story. For example, Lalo's hotel, the newspaper office, the cemetery, the ferry, the school.
4. Invite a jeweler to visit your class to show pearls and rubies.
5. Learn about the stages of grief.
6. Find out about Kinder-Mourn.

Music/Movement Connections

1. Dance to Papa's favorite tunes: "Me and My Shadow", "East Side, West Side", "I Got Rhythm"
2. Listen to accordion music.
3. Try tap dancing and the soft-shoe.