

Children's Literature Across the Curriculum Ideas

Created by students at the University of North Carolina Charlotte

Title: *Chicka Chicka Boom Boom*.

Author: Bill Martin and John Archambault

Illustrator: Lois Ehlert

Publisher/Date: Simon and Schuster Books, 1989.

Grade level: Kindergarten through Second

Summary: The alphabet race to see who can get up the coconut tree first.

Reading/Writing Connections

1. Introduce the story and the author.
2. Read the book to the class and stop when the alphabet is all up the tree, at "oh no". Have the students predict what will happen. Also have them predict what will happen after the end or write sequels.
3. Reflect on the book and retell the main events sequentially
4. Show the book and discuss what the book could be about.
5. Ask students to make alphabet shapes. Explore high level and low level shapes. Discuss the differences in the upper and lower case letters. Encourage creativity.
6. Maintain a rhythm as you read the book. (Music may be added).
7. Discuss what causes the letters to fall from the coconut tree. Explore falling safely.
8. Talk about the injuries to the letters and how they can creatively change the shape of the injured letters. Explore the movement.
9. Discuss the different colors. Have students name and try to spell the different color words.
10. Have students cooperatively work together to make partner letter shapes.
11. Have students create own rhythmic movement to "chicka chicka boom boom, will there be enough room?"

Vocabulary/Spelling

alphabet	boom	coconut	cry	flop
free	knee	knotted	looped	moon
pileup	room	running	tag-along	tangled
tie	tooth	tree	twisted	wiggle

Library Connections

1. Share other alphabet books and rhymes.
2. Introduce books with letter themes, such as *Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What do you see?*
3. Other Books on the Alphabet: *A Snake is Totally Tail* Judi Barrett
Alphabet Puzzle Jill Downie
Alphabet Times Four Ruth Brown
The Bird Alphabet Jerry Pallotta
Under the Sea From A to Z Annie Doublet
One hundred Nineteenth-Century Rhyming Alphabets in English R. M. Baldwin
An Alphabet of Animals I. Brent
Alphabet Parade S. Chwast
Eating the Alphabet: Fruits and Vegetables From A to Z. Lois Ehlert
4. Share other books about the alphabet: Lorna Balia, *Humbug Potion*; *Action Alphabet*: Jane Bayer, *A My Name Is Alice*:
5. Help students with alphabetical order used in me library.

6. Share other books from the authors: *Barn Dance* and *Knots on a Counting Rope*.

English/Dramatics

1. Practice choral reading *Chicka Chicka Boom Boom*.
2. Pantomime, dramatize, improvise the story.
3. Assign each student a coconut with a letter on it and have them do their part as the story is read. It might be more fun to make them with piping so they are movable!
4. Discuss fantasy and allow children to work with-in a given framework to create a small group fantasy. Have them perform it for the class or tell it to the class.
5. Have students sort pictures which portray real or fantasy. They could use a mixture of these in creating their performance for number 4.
6. Play reading games and activities, such as in Peggy Kay's *Games for Reading* or Katie Johnson's *Doing Words*
7. In the alphabet party listed in health connections, animal cookies could be categorized according to beginning sounds.
8. Review rhyming words.
9. Explain that as you reread the book, students will raise their hands every time they hear a rhyming word.

Centers

1. Form letters with modeling clay, blocks, pieces of candy or paper, piping.
2. Trace letters and make collages or mobiles of letters.
3. Have students practicing letters, lacing alphabet letter shaped cards, playing with magnetic letters, pretend writing, playing with alphabet puzzles, etc.

Math/Art

1. Discuss shapes of each letter. Compare the straight, curved, and angular lines. Create abstract art though line variation and using various colors.
2. Discuss and differentiate colors of each letter. Chart number of each color.
3. Count the number of letters in the alphabet.
4. Make a large coconut tree and have each student decorate a coconut with a letter for the tree.
5. Count the letters in the alphabet. Add upper and lower case letters.
6. Count how many different colors the author used for the letters.
7. Explore what happens when blue and yellow are mixed together.

Social Studies/Health

1. Research where coconut trees come from.
2. Research what type of food a coconut is and the various food groups. Drink the milk and eat the meat.
3. Have an alphabet party and categorize the foods (alphabet soup, alphabet cookies, etc.)
4. Research where our letters came from.
5. Explore family relationships.

Guidance

1. Discuss the importance of making good choices and the consequences of ones actions.

Creative Movement

1. Explore the sculpting bodies in the shape of letters.
2. Explore the various lines studied in art through pathways in the air or on the floor.

3. Write your name with body parts in the air or on the floor (in pathways).
4. Recreate the action of the story and rhythm of the story through movement.

Art Connections

1. Have students cooperatively draw and color a large coconut tree.(Stage Props)
2. Have students design their own letters for the coconut tree.(Stage Props)
3. Have students perform chicka chicka boom boom dance on stage with music.