

Children's Literature Across the Curriculum Ideas

Created by students at the University of North Carolina Charlotte

Title: *The Giving Tree*.

Author: Shel Silverstein

Publisher/Date: Harper & Row, 1964.

Grade Level: K-5

Summary: A boy and tree love each other. As the boy grows older the tree gives him all of its parts so that he will be happy.

Reading/Writing Connections

1. Show the book. Talk about why the author used simple illustrations.
2. As you read, discuss some other ways the tree could have been useful to the boy at each stage of his life.
3. At each stage of the boy's life, discuss how the tree feels. Make a list of words. Comparing beginning and ending lists.
4. Predict what the tree will do for the boy as he gets older. Compare predictions with actual events.
5. Discuss whether or not the boy took advantage of the tree's kindness.
6. Read a little of the book each day, beginning the story time with journal writing. Here are some ideas:
 - a. Write a list of 5 things people in an apple orchard might say.
 - b. Write 10 words that begin with the same "a" sound as apple.
 - c. In your own words, describe how to bob for apples.
 - d. Write a story about how it would feel to be a lopsided apple.
7. Use sentence strips to put the story events in sequential order.
8. Talk about sharing. Make a list of times you shared voluntarily.
9. Discuss alternative titles to the story.

Library Connections

1. Share some poetry by the author: *Where the Sidewalk Ends*, *The Missing Piece*, and *A Light in the Attic*.
2. Share some other books about apple trees *The Seasons of Arnold's Apple Tree* by Gail Gibbons, 1984; *Johnny Appleseed* by Steven Kellogg, 1988; *From Apple Seed to Applesauce* by Hannah Lyons Johnson, 1977; *Apple Tree* by Peter Parnall, 1987
3. Show the Reading Rainbow *Once There Was a Tree*.

Math Connections

1. Give each student a bag of seeds. Sort them by colors and sizes.
2. Show students a recipe for making applesauce muffins. Have students measure the ingredients, bake, and enjoy muffins for a snack. Look up other apple recipes in a cookbook.
3. Cut an apple in half. Dip halves in a variety of paint colors and make ABAB patterns on paper.
4. Poll the class or school's favorite kind of apple. Graph the results.

Science Connections

1. Cut from magazines pictures of things made from trees. Display as a collage.
2. Plant and observe the growth of several kinds of seeds.
3. Research apples and report on how they are good for you.
4. Cut open a variety of fruits and vegetables to compare the seeds.

5. Research a way trees are used and report to the class.

Social Studies/Geography Connections

1. If possible, visit an apple orchard.
2. Research and compare apple producing states such as Vermont and Washington.
3. Discuss the feeling of happiness.
4. Read From Apple to Applesauce. Discuss all of the jobs involved in the process.

Language Arts Connections

1. Write the word apple going down. Use each letter to write a word or phrase about apples to create an apple poem.
2. Make a book called Happiness Is...
3. Have groups write their own stories about an apple tree.

Art Connections

1. Do some leaf rubbings.
2. Paint apple or tree pictures using watercolors.
3. Illustrate stories using line drawings.

Movement Connections

1. Bob for apples.
2. Move like a tree based upon the music being played.