

Children's Literature Across the Curriculum Ideas

Created by students at the University of North Carolina Charlotte

Title: *Sadako*

Author: Eleanor Coerr

Publisher/Date: Putman's Sons, 1993

Grade Level: K-2

Summary: Hospitalized with the dreaded atom bomb disease, leukemia, a child in Hiroshima races against the time to fold 1000 paper cranes to verify the legend that by doing so a sick person will become healthy.

Reading/Writing Connections

1. Fold a paper crane.
2. Show the book. Talk about the author.
3. Ask students to predict what the story is about.
4. As you read point out how optimistic Sadako is, and how she strives to enjoy every moment of everyday.
5. Give students paper.
6. Let them make paper cranes.
7. Have students tie a string on their cranes.
8. Hang their cranes from the ceiling.
9. Have students talk about their feelings concerning the myth.
10. Ask them if they feel that folding the cranes gave Sadako hope.

Vocabulary/Spelling

atom	awake	bomb	carnival	crisp
engrave	exclaim	fidget	frighten	groan
Hiroshima	holiday	kimono	leukemia	memorial
nervous	Ohta	photograph	quilt	Sadako
secret	swarm	whirlwind	whisper	wriggle

Library Connections

1. Share other books on World War Two:
War Boy, by Michael Foreman
Don't You Know There's A War On?, by James Stevenson
2. Direct students to areas of the media center where they can find more information on World War Two.

Social Studies Connections

1. Research information on World War Two.
2. Schedule a military veteran to come talk about their experience in War.

Art Connections

1. Let students draw scenes from the story.

Publishing

1. Display on bulletin board.
-

Title: Sadako.

Author: Eleanor Coerr

Publisher/Date: Putman's Sons, 1993

Grade: 3-4

Summary: Sadako is an energetic, lively eleven-year-old living in Hiroshima in 1954, nine years after the bomb was dropped. While running in a track meet in school, Sadako begins having dizzy spells and learns that she has leukemia. In the hospital, her friend Chizudo makes a paper crane for her and reminds her of the legend that says if one makes 1,000 cranes, his or her wish for health will be granted. Sadako makes 644 before her death.

Reading/Writing Connections

2. Ask the students to tell you what they can tell about this book from its cover illustration and the title?
3. Ask the students to guess why the paper crane is the jackdaw?
4. Read a few pages of the beginning of the book and discuss with the students the fictional elements of the story?
5. Discuss who Sadako is, what is she like, and why does she seem so sad?
6. Continue to read the book and make a chart of the parts of the book that are facts and fiction.
7. Distribute paper for origami.
8. Make the origami paper crane.

Vocabulary/ Spelling

dazzling	engrave	fidget	garlands
Hiroshima	kimono	leukemia	memorial
mischief	murmur	qualify	wiggled

Communication Arts

1. In their journals, the students will write to this prompt: Sadako made the same wish each time the bell tolled and each time she completed a paper crane. She wished for good health. Tell about a wish you have and why it is important to you.
2. Create a chart showing the similarities and differences between Sadako and Kenji, and their situations.
3. Ask students to write an obituary for Sadako.
4. Write haiku poems, an unrhymed verse form of Japanese origin. Compose a haiku about Sadako.

Library Connections

1. Have the librarian research with the children other information about the bombing of Hiroshima.
2. Have the media specialist video tape the students being news reporters, reporting what they have found out about the bombing.
3. Share other books about Japan:

A Family in Japan by Elkin

Junich: A Boy from Japan by Schlost

The Land and People of Japan by Vaughan

Where We Live: Japan by Bailey and Sproule

Social Studies Connections

1. Research why on August 6, 1945 the American plane Enola Gay dropped the bomb on Hiroshima.
2. Discuss how Peace Day is similar and different from Memorial Day in the U.S. Create a chart comparing the two holidays.

Math Connections

1. Make a timeline of the events that led up to the dropping of the atomic bomb.
2. Compare the number of casualties in the different wars. Which had the most and which had the least?

Science Connections

1. Research leukemia, its causes, symptoms, and what medical discoveries and advances that have led to its control and some cases cure.
2. Interview a doctor to find more about how leukemia patients mentally and physically deal with leukemia.

Art Connections

1. Draw a picture of your favorite scene from the book.

Drama Connections

1. Have the students rewrite parts of the story and act them out.

Title: Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes

Author: Coerr, Eleanor

Publisher: G.P. Putnam's Sons, 1977

Grades: 3-5

Summary: This is a true story about a girl named Sadako who was living in Hiroshima, Japan, when the atom bomb was dropped on the city. Ten years later, she developed leukemia and eventually died as a result of exposure to radiation from the bomb.

Reading/Writing Connections

2. After reading each chapter, students will keep a personal response journal in which to record emotional reactions to the text.
3. Make a cause-effect chart to document the effects of the bomb.
4. Learn about Haiku, a three-lined, unrhymed form of Japanese poetry with a nature theme, using a 5-7-5 syllable pattern; then have students compose their own Haiku.
5. Locate examples of similes in the book. (See Art Connections, below.)
6. Write newspaper articles for a Japanese newspaper and an American newspaper about the bombing. Compare the perspectives.
7. Make a list of Sadako's "good luck signs."

Vocabulary/Spelling Connections

1. While reading the book, make a list of Japanese foods and culture; categorize these into a concept map.

2. Use context clues to determine the meaning of these words from the book; confirm or correct by using a dictionary: radiation, leukemia, ancestors, tatami mat, drowsily, kimono, throngs, parasols, recovered, rustle, clammy, listless, wistful, and altar.

Communication Arts Connections

1. Read and discuss *Faithful Elephants*, a book about the effects of war on the animals at the Euno Zoo in Tokyo. List possible alternatives to killing the animals in the zoo.
2. Read and discuss *Hiroshima No Pika*, a book about the "Flash" and its devastating effects on the people of Japan. Discuss the suffering of the people after the bomb. Share and discuss the background information about why the book was written.
3. Invite a Japanese Buddhist to visit the class to teach one of the special folk dances used at an O'Bon holiday celebration.
4. Show the video, "Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes." Compare and contrast it to the book.
5. Introduce origami by sharing the picture book, *The Paper Crane*. Practice good listening and following directions skills while instructions are given to begin origami.

Media Center Connections

1. Use the Internet or microfiche to locate information on Pearl Harbor, World War II, Hiroshima, Nagasaki, and WWII Relocation Camps in the United States.
2. Locate information about the bombardier for "Little Boy," a North Carolinian.
3. Explore the history of peace symbols, including the Hiroshima Peace Park and origami cranes.
4. Locate other books (fiction and nonfiction) that deal with the atrocities of war. Read them and share with classmates.

Social Studies Connections

1. As a prereading activity, develop background knowledge of World War II (which countries fought in the war, which sides the countries were on, why the United States decided to drop the bomb on Japan, the number of people killed by the bomb, what happened to the war after the bomb was dropped, and the current status of Hiroshima).
2. On a world map, students will locate Hiroshima, Nagasaki, and Pearl Harbor. Discuss the reasons that these sites were chosen to be bombed.
3. Create a time line of the events that lead to the atom bombs being dropped on Japan.

Mathematics Connections

1. Make a graph to compare the number of deaths at the time of the bombs and the number of deaths that occurred later, as a result of the bombing of Japan.
2. Compare the number of deaths in Japan to the number of deaths at Pearl Harbor.
3. Determine the number of square miles that were destroyed as a result of the bombs.
4. Compare the number of people who might have been killed if the war had not ended as a result of the atom bombs.

Science Connections

1. Compare atom bombs to conventional bombs; include their power and after-effects.
2. Research to determine the effects of radiation on the air, water, soil, and people.

Art Connections

1. Illustrate favorite similes from the book.
2. Learn the ancient art of paper folding, origami, and create peace cranes. Set a goal of 1000 origami cranes. Hang these around the room.

3. Allow a group of students who are proficient in origami to make a giant crane from fadeless bulletin board paper. Suspend from the ceiling at a highly visible point in the school building. Make a sign to explain its significance.
4. Make paper lanterns as a memorial for Japanese Peace Day. Write the name of a loved one inside the lantern and mount them on a bulletin board that has been decorated to resemble a river.

Drama Connections

1. Act out favorite scenes using Readers' Theater.

Health Connections

1. Gather information about the disease of leukemia and how it is treated.
2. Compare the treatment of leukemia now to the treatment that Japanese people received after the atom bomb.
3. Create a time line of events that led to Sadako's illness and eventual death.

Physical Education Connections

1. Allow students to have relay races. Make special ribbons for the winners.

Additional books cited in curriculum connections:

Bang, Molly. *The Paper Crane*. Greenwillow, 1985.

Maruki, Toshi. *Hiroshima No Pika*. Lothrop, Lee & Shepard Books, 1980.

Tsuchiya, Yukio. *Faithful Elephants*. Houghton Mifflin Company, 1988.