

The Dr. Seuss Connection

Objective: The student will give an oral report of a book written by Dr. Seuss.

Standard: Uses reading skills and strategies to understand and interpret a variety of literary texts

Benchmarks: Understands the use of language in literary works to convey mood, images, and meaning

Standard: Understands inferred and recurring themes in literary works (i.e. bravery, loyalty, friendship, good vs. evil; historical, cultural, and social themes)

Benchmark: Makes connections between the motives of characters or the causes for complex events in texts and those in his or her own life

Skill Development: Summarizing, identifying the main idea, speaking skills

Organization: Whole-class activity, small groups

Materials

- several Dr. Seuss books (including *The Lorax*, *The Sneetches and Other Stories*, and *The Butter Battle Book*)
- copies of Oh, The Lessons You'll Learn (Activity Guide), following pages

Procedure

1. Read Across America Day is celebrated every year on or near Dr. Seuss' birthday, on March 2. This day is a day to celebrate and encourage reading.
2. Schedule a Dr. Seuss day in your classroom. Invite the students to bring their favorite Dr. Seuss books. Begin by asking each student to name his or her favorite Dr. Seuss book.
3. Ask the students, "Why did you enjoy Dr. Seuss books when you were a young child?" "What makes Dr. Seuss books special?" The students might say that they enjoyed the rhyming nature of Dr. Seuss' books.
4. Tell the students that Dr. Seuss often wrote narrative poetry. He told stories using rhyming verse. Review the concept of narrative poetry.
5. Display copies of *The Lorax*, *The Sneetches and Other Stories*, and *The Butter Battle Book*. Tell the students that Dr. Seuss wrote these books as narrative poetry. These books deal with topics that older students can understand and discuss.
6. Tell the students that they will be working in groups to read and discuss books written by Dr. Seuss.
7. Divide students into groups of three to six. Give each group time to select a Dr. Seuss title to read and discuss.
8. Distribute copies of "Oh, The Lessons You'll Learn." Ask each group to complete it.
9. Ask each group to make an oral report to the entire class. In the oral report, each group should:
 - Give a summary of the book read.
 - Identify and discuss the lesson contained in the book.

Oh, The Lessons You'll Learn

Dr. Seuss? Yes, you probably read Dr. Seuss books when you were very young. Did you know that Dr. Seuss also wrote books for older students and adults? One of his most popular books, *You're Only Old Once*, is recommended for people over age 70! Many Dr. Seuss books contain messages for older students.

Directions:

1. Work with a group of your classmates. Select one of the Dr. Seuss titles listed below.

The Lorax

The Sneetches and Other Stories

Horton Hears a Who

Horton Hatches the Egg

The Butter Battle Book

How the Grinch Stole Christmas

Oh, The Places You'll Go

2. Read the book. Discuss the book with members of your group. Consider these questions as you discuss the book:
 - Who were the main characters in the book?
 - Did these characters appear in any other books by Dr. Seuss?
 - Could you classify the actions of these characters as good or evil?
 - Do you have a friend who would enjoy this book?
 - Why would this book be appropriate for your friend?
 - Why do you think Dr. Seuss wrote this book?
 - What was the main idea of the book?
 - What lesson was revealed in this book?
 - When was this written?
 - Is the lesson appropriate for today's students?
3. Complete the page given to you in class.
4. Prepare an oral report to present to the entire class. Summarize the book for the class and state the lesson in that book.
 - State the main idea of the book.
 - State the events that occurred in the book.
 - Describe the main characters.
 - What did they look like? What were their special qualities? What did they do that made them memorable?
 - State the lesson presented in the book.
 - What can we learn by reading this book?

Oh, The Lessons You'll Learn Summary

Group Members: _____

Dr. Seuss story: _____

Copyright date: _____

Summary of the Book: _____

Topic of the Book: _____

Lesson of the book: _____

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