

Lesson Plan Two

Grade: 4th-6th Resource

Estimated Time: 30 minutes (15 minutes to read-aloud and 15 minutes of activity)

Connections to Standards and Lesson Objectives:

PO 2. Identify elements of a story, including characters, setting, and key events.

PO 3. Retell or re-enact a story, placing the events in correct sequence.

PO 4. Determine whether a literary selection, that is heard, is realistic or fantasy.

Book:

Literary Selection: Strega Nona Her Story as told by Tomie dePaola

Author and Illustrator: Tomie dePaola

Publication: 2000

Genre: Multicultural legend

Supplies Needed:

Writing paper and utensils

Key Vocabulary: Strega, chance, compliments, convent, remedy, fierce, and clever

Reader-response Activity: After our read-aloud and class discussion, the students will construct their own spells and compose an ingredient list for what their potions would contain.

Connections to Prior Learning/Knowledge/Experience: The students have been learning to ask key questions with each piece of literature they read. The students are focusing on how to “think critically” just as the lesson plan used previously. However, now they are familiar with multicultural legends and will understand the concept.

Lesson Procedures/Activities:

1. Gather the students and say “Alright guys, I have a wonderful book for us today!” to get their attention.
2. Hold up the cover of the book and say “Today we are going to read a *legend* from another culture that has many themes involved.”
3. Ask questions to motivate the students:
 - a. Have you ever felt different? Have you ever been jealous of your friends?
 - b. Do you have a special person you always turn to? Someone at home or school?
4. Begin read-aloud by announcing the book information and read using different voices for each character. Do not forget to focus on vocabulary words to help them understand the story.
5. Stop periodically to ask “What is Nona feeling?” and “Do you think her friend is being very nice?”
6. Recap vocabulary words that are shown more than once. Ask the students to tell you what the word means.
7. Continue the story and make sure they are engaged.
8. Ask students once you finish the book, “How did you feel when Nona became the greatest Strega?” and “What did you think of her friend?” or “Can you relate to Strega Nona at all?”
9. Pass out paper to the students and give them a pencil. Tell them to create their own spell and the ingredients in their potion they would use. Write their name on the bottom of the paper to showcase their work.

For example: “My spell would be to make my hair grow long.”

“My potion ingredients: flowers of all different colors, water from the ocean, moon dust, shampoo and conditioner, and the hairbrush of a famous celebrity with long hair.”

10. Collect students’ work and showcase in the cafeteria or in the hallway.

Reflection:

Q: What worked well in the lesson? Why?

A: The discussion because the students seemed to truly identify with Strega Nona’s friend treating her the way she did. The activity was a lot of fun because of the spells the students came up with.

Q: Did the students learn? How do I know?

A: Yes, they did learn because they were using the vocabulary words later on in our conversations. They learned to be more delicate with words because sometimes we all say things that hurt others but we didn’t know at the time they were hurtful. They gave examples of how they treated their siblings that morning.

Q: If I do this lesson again, what changes would I make?

A: I would have more time for discussion because the students seemed to finish the response activity faster than I had expected. It was fine because we just discussed the book more and our own spells but next time I will only give them 10 minutes for the activity.

Q: How did the students respond to the lesson overall?

A: They were very attentive and eager to answer questions. They loved the response activity because it was using all of their own ideas and it was personal to them. They enjoyed presenting their spells and some came up with rhymes for their actual spell.