

# Apple Tree

The goal of the Sing Together Big Books is to provide enjoyment and guaranteed success for all students as they participate and learn important literacy skills in a real reading situation.

**Topics:** Food, Family, Seasons, Life Cycles

**Curriculum Links:** Social Studies, Health, Dance, Music, Science, Math, Art, Drama, and Writing

## Preparation for Shared Book Experience:

Introduce the topic of apples by giving a riddle with 3 or 4 clues for the children to discover the answer “ apple”. Solidify prior knowledge specific to the Apple Tree and build oral language vocabulary. Encourage discussion by presenting samples or pictures of different varieties of apples and apple products. Develop a co-operative list of varieties of apples grown locally, a supermarket list of varieties commonly sold, a list of foods made from or with apples.

Share the cover of the big book and discuss the importance of the illustrations and encourage predictions:

- ü What do you think the book will be about?
- ü What do you think mother is making?
- ü Why do you think the children are smiling?

## Shared Reading Experience:

Set a purpose for initial listening: Ask children to listen to the song as you turn the pages and to look carefully at the illustrations to discover what the dog is doing in each illustration. After the first reading discuss any unfamiliar vocabulary. Listen to the selection again but this time join in on the phrase while doing an appropriate action “Pick up the apples One, two, three” .....Teacher may point to the words on this second playing.

## Repeated Readings with Participation:

- ü Highlight a few pages to note various details from both the illustrations and the vocabulary
- ü Clarify and discuss any unfamiliar vocabulary
- ü Model and teach text features using procedures as such as cloze, letter and/or word substitution. Identify rhyme, rhythm and repetitive aspects of the text. A pocket chart would be useful for these activities.
- ü Discuss apple farm activities; pressing the apples etc. with the intention of later having the students in groups, pairs or individually, create captions for the illustrations that tells what is going on in each scenario.

- ü Perform choral reading and chanting. Divide into groups for oral responses and various physical activities to the song
- ü Recall vocabulary, ideas, or specific information
- ü Discuss why the wind, and the honeybee are mentioned
- ü Have students substitute other words for apple pie, apple juice, and apple crisp for repeated class readings.
- ü Demonstrate some particular reading strategy or skill

## **Integrating Language Arts**

### **Reading:**

- ü Encourage several shared readings of the text
- ü Record parts of the text on a chart. A second copy can be cut into phrases or cards to rebuild the text
- ü Record and read suggested vocabulary substitutions on post-its or in the pocket chart
- ü Read selections as whole class, small group or independently
- ü Use the pocket chart for sequencing activities with the text
- ü Read little books independently or with a partner
- ü Read other books on food
- ü Research different life cycles in non-fiction books.
- ü Read/sing along with the C.D.

### **Writing:**

- ü Make a class book of apple recipes.
- ü Write accordion booklets to sequence the song.
- ü Develop and record descriptive vocabulary for the different senses eg. smell, sights, sounds, feelings in this song
- ü Provide students with simple frames or cloze passages to write their own version substituting their favourite apple foods.
- ü Make a simple factual report on the life cycle of the apple or other foods.
- ü Label parts of the apple, and the stages of its growth.
- ü Write non-fiction riddle books for different foods.
- ü Write quotations for the comments that the characters including the dog may be thinking or saying – use as speech bubbles
- ü Write their favourite apple recipe in a class apple book.
- ü Make an advertisement for their favourite kind of apple
- ü Write new verses for the song

### **Listening:**

- ü Listen for enjoyment
- ü Play the CD and big book as a whole class or group session and children respond in different ways
- ü Set up a listening center using the CD and small books with individual responses

- ü Listen to other songs or stories about food

### **Speaking:**

- ü Choral reading of the selection
- ü Use as a readers' theatre
- ü Invent sayings for the characters in the song and dramatize various scenes
- ü Dramatize a trip to an apple orchard and picking the apples
- ü Sing the song as a performance

### **Curriculum Links**

#### **Social Studies:**

- ü Discuss fruits from around the world and why they are popular in different countries.
- ü Make a class trip to an apple orchard
- ü Discuss different careers and their various roles eg. farmers, chefs, grocers etc
- ü Discuss family responsibilities and sharing for cooking, preparing and storing food.

#### **Science:**

- ü Research about apples and other fruits
- ü Learn about life cycles and the role that nature plays
- ü Discuss the climate necessary to grow apples and different fruits.
- ü Investigate the different stages of the apple in different seasons
- ü Do simple experiments with apples ( drying, planting seeds, etc.)
- ü Learn about what is necessary to grow apples and maintain an apple orchard
- ü Discuss the diseases and problems that farmers may have with growing fruit.
- ü Visit an apple orchard
- ü Do a taste test and develop a taste comparison chart: sweet to sour

#### **Health:**

- ü Discuss healthy foods and the nutrition of apples ( include other fruits)
- ü Plan a healthy meal including fruit.
- ü Develop a list of healthy fruit snacks
- ü Discuss the meaning of the saying "An apple a day keeps the Doctor away"

#### **Music and Movement:**

- ü Listen to the music and develop different ways of responding
- ü Teach a simple line dance routine for the song
- ü Rhythm activity : Clapping three times on the words apple tree in the following manner: Round and round the ap – ple tree  
clap, clap clap  
And then in the same spot in the other lines such as:

Pick up the apples one, two three  
clap, clap, clap

- ü Divide the class into 2 groups and have them alternate their singing parts
- ü Discuss other possible clapping activities with your school music teacher or District consultant. Perhaps some other rhythmic activities could be developed with the result being a simple line dance

### **Math:**

- ü Compare the prices of different apples
- ü Sort and classify fruits and vegetables
- ü Graph their preferences for apples and different apple recipes
- ü Compare the prices of making apple sauce to buying it.
- ü Teach fractions by using the apple to cut into desired pieces.
- ü Measure and follow a simple apple recipe

### **Art :**

- ü Make apple head dolls.
- ü Do a class mural of a trip to an apple orchard and include „talking bubbles“
- ü Make apple print pictures and designs.
- ü Demonstrate the different designs when cutting an apple horizontally eg. a star

### **Extensions for Older Students:**

- ü Plan and prepare an apple celebration for their own class or a younger class in the school
- ü Create an apple activity to share with a younger class
- ü Investigate and record the advantages and disadvantages of organic farming.
- ü Examine labels of canned or frozen fruit for nutritional facts and summarize their findings.
- ü Make a collection of apple recipes and produce them in a class newspaper or booklet form.

## **Enjoy and Have Fun !**





