

The Pigpen Party

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.

Thematic Links: Celebrations, Family, Animals

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

Preparation for Shared Book Experience:

Solidify prior knowledge specific to The Pig Pen Party and build oral language vocabulary. Discussion may be encouraged by having a special bag filled with various party items eg. hats, invitations, decorations food etc.

Brainstorm with the students various aspects of celebrations or family gatherings and record their ideas. Include topics such as party planning, listing party games, favours, guests, food and music. During the discussion encourage students to respond to the sights, sounds, smells and feelings of a party. A “Senses” graphic organizer would be useful to record their ideas.

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

- What do they think the book will be about?
- What are the pigs doing on the cover?
- Why might they be making invitations?
- Who do they think the invitations are for?
- How do the pigs feel?
- Where might the party take place?
- What might happen at this party?
- How do the activities at the pigpen party differ from a people party?

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 any new celebration ideas they see and then record their observations.

After the first read discuss any unfamiliar vocabulary. Listen to the selection again but this time join in on the phrase “When the Pigs had a party in the pen”.....Teacher may point to the words on this second playing.

Repeated Readings with Participation:

- Highlight a few pages to note various details from both the illustrations and the vocabulary.
- 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.
- Discuss how the music makes you feel and what response they could make (Line dance)
- Perform choral reading and chanting. Divide into groups for oral responses and various physical activities.
- Recall vocabulary, ideas, or specific information
- Demonstrate some particular reading strategy or skill

Integrating Language Arts

Reading:

- encourage several shared readings of the text
- record parts of the text on a chart. A second copy can be cut into phrases or cards to rebuild the text
- read selections as whole class, small group or independently
- use the pocket chart for sequencing activities with the text
- read little books independently or with a partner
- read about other celebrations
- read/sing along with the C.D.

Writing:

- Write invitations to a party
- Make lists for planning a party eg. Food, guests, games, shop
- Write accordion booklets to sequence the song.
- Compare and contrast the pigpen party to a people party and create your own people party book.
- Develop and record descriptive vocabulary for the different senses eg. smell, sights, sounds, feelings in this song
- Provide students with simple frames or cloze passages to write their own version
- Research parties, family gatherings or true facts about pigs and write a factual report
- Label presents, pictures, photographs or articles for a celebration
- Make riddles for different celebrations or events
- Write quotations for the pigs' comments – use as speech bubbles
- Write their favourite recipe for a celebration and make a class recipe book
- Make a newspaper report on this or another celebration.
- Compare fiction and nonfiction facts about pigs
- Write new verses for the song

Listening:

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

Speaking:

- Choral reading of the selection
- Use as a readers' theatre
- Invent sayings for the characters in the song and dramatize various scenes
- Dramatize other celebrations
- Sing the song as a performance

Curriculum Links

Social Studies:

- Discuss other Celebrations from around the world
- Compare and contrast different family traditions
- Make a family tree
- Discuss family responsibilities and sharing

Science:

- Research about pigs and other farm animals
- Find true facts about pigs
- Discuss photography and study the different types of cameras past and present and their uses
- Make a pin camera

Health:

- Discuss healthy foods for parties
- Plan a healthy menu for a party or celebration
- Discuss party safety and rules

Music and Movement:

- Listen to the music and develop different ways of responding
- Teach a simple line dance routine for the song
- Rhythm activity: Keeping time with the music by clapping hands on the side of their legs. Clapping only to certain parts of the song eg. The chorus Use their handmade musical instruments to accompany the song
- Divide the class into 2 groups and have them alternate their singing parts

Math:

- Estimate how much food they would need for a class party
- Work on a budget to spend only a certain amount of money for the celebration
- Sort and classify foods
- Graph their preferences for party food

Art:

- Make party decorations
- Do a class mural of different world traditions and celebrations
- Make party invitations
- Make group or individual scrapbooks of family heritage
- Design a crest or banner

Extensions for Older Students:

- Plan and prepare a celebration for their own class or a younger class in the school
- Create their own dance to accompany this selection and perform or teach it to the younger students.
- Choose a celebration from another country and prepare it for the class
- Use different forms of photography to record events

Enjoy and Have Fun !