

Notes/Reflections:

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Similarities and Differences • Overcoming Obstacles •



Explore similarities and differences through acting!

Living with Something Unusual

The class will discuss similarities and differences in stories, and then create their own.

Essential Question: How can you teach language arts concepts utilizing theatre skills?

Process

- The teacher will read two quick texts for the students that have a similar theme, such as *Aaaarrgghh Spider*, and *How do Dinosaurs Say Good Night?*
- The teacher will prompt students to think of similarities and differences between the two texts.
- Students are then broken into groups and given a prompt to act out.
- Students must come up with their own story based on an unusual animal living with humans, and how they overcome obstacles.
- Depending on time students will write and act out their stories and share.
- In order for all the students to share this will take longer than one session.
- Students will present their stories as a group.
- They can ultimately develop dialogue, costumes, and scenes.

Assessment

- Students will identify similarities and differences between the two texts
- Students will create a well-developed narrative
- Students will act out their stories to the class.
- Students will make text to text comparisons.

Materials

- *Aaaarrgghh Spider*, by Lydia Monks and *How do Dinosaurs Say Good Night?*, by Jane Yolen, or two texts that have a similar theme
- story outline paper
- costume material
- paper
- pencils

Vocabulary

Character

A person or animal in a story who takes part in the action

Setting

The time and place of a story (when and where)

Plot

The series of related events that together form a story

Illustration

A drawing, painting, photograph, or other image that is created to depict a story, poem, or newspaper article

Classroom Tips

This activity is great for small group work, and easily differentiated.

Common Core Georgia Performance Standards

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

GRADE 2

ELACC2RL6: Acknowledge differences in the points of view of characters, including by speaking in a different voice for each character when reading dialogue aloud.

ELACC2RL7: Use information gained from the illustrations and words in a print or digital text to demonstrate understanding of its characters, setting, or plot.

ELACC2RL9: Compare and contrast two or more versions of the same story (e.g., Cinderella stories) by different authors or from different cultures.

ELACC2W3: Write narratives in which they recount a well-elaborated event or short sequence of events, include details to describe actions, thoughts, and feelings, use temporal words to signal event order, and provide a sense of closure.

Georgia Performance Standards

THEATRE ARTS

GRADE 1

TAES2.2: Developing scripts through improvisation and other theatrical methods

TAES2.3: Acting by developing, communicating, and sustaining roles within a variety of situations and environments

National Standards

THEATRE ARTS

Standard 2: Acting by assuming roles and interacting in improvisations.