



Pre-Visit: *Trouble at Connemara Farm* Grades K-2

Lesson Length

Approximately 30 minutes

Common Core State Standards

Reading Standards for Literature

- Actively engage in group reading and activities with purpose and understanding. CCSS.ELA-Literacy.K.1.10
- With prompting and support, read poetry and prose. CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.1.10
- By the end of the year, read and comprehend literature, including stories and poetry, in the grades 2 – 3 text complexity band proficiently, with scaffolding as needed at the high end of the range. CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.2.10

Speaking and Listening Standards

- Participate in collaborative conversation with diverse partners about grade level (K, 1, & 2) appropriate topics with peers and adults in small or larger groups. CCSS.ELA-Literacy.SL.K.1, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.SL.1.1, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.SL.2.1
- Speak audibly and express thoughts, feelings, and ideas clearly. CCSS.ELA-Literacy.SL.K.6
- Produce complete sentences when appropriate to task and situation. CCSS.ELA-Literacy.SL.1.6
- Produce complete sentences when appropriate to task and situation in order to provide requested detail or clarification. CSS.ELA-Literacy.SL.2.6



Learning Target

- I can independently or with support read prose fluently with tone and expression.

Materials Needed

- “Mrs. Sandburg had a farm” song
- “Trouble at Connemara Farm” reader’s theater scripts
- Optional costumes or animal masks

Procedure

Activating Strategy

Sing Along – Teacher will model how to sing the song “Mrs. Sandburg Had a Farm” adapted from “Old MacDonald Had a Farm”. Teacher will display words to the song on the Smartboard or using the overhead projector. Whole group, teacher and students will sing the song “Mrs. Sandburg Had a Farm” together.

Teaching Strategy

1. Teacher will introduce the Reader's Theater, *Trouble at Connemara Farm*, to the students. Teacher will then model how to use tone and expression while reading as the characters are introduced to the students. *This activity can be integrated into the classroom as either whole group or small group. Students will read the play to practice fluency, expression, and tone.
2. For whole group instruction, teacher can choose from student volunteers for specific parts in the reader's theater, remembering that students chosen should read fluently with both expression and tone. This will allow for proper modeling. Teacher can also assign those students not participating in the reader's theater roles of the goat, chicken, and cat. These students can participate by adding the animals' sounds when appropriate throughout the reader's theater.
3. For small group presentation of the reader's theater allow students to choose their own groups of eight students. Next, allow the students to work collaboratively within the group to assign roles.
4. Allow groups of students to practice, color masks and create simple prompts for about 15 minutes.
5. Students will perform the reader's theater, "Mrs. Sandburg Had a Farm".

Summarizing Strategy

1 & 1 – Remembering that students were to read with fluency, tone and expression, students will share with the teacher one of the three they feel they did great and one of the three they feel they needs work. For example, one thing I did great was reading with fluency and one thing that I need to work on is reading with tone.

"Mrs. Sandburg Had a Farm" sung to the tune of "Old MacDonald Had a Farm"

Mrs. Sandburg had a farm,
E, I ,E ,I , O
And on that farm she had some goats
E, I ,E ,I , O
With a maa, maa here
And a maa, maa there
Here a maa, there a maa, everywhere a maa, maa
Mrs. Sandburg had a farm,
E, I ,E ,I , O

Mrs. Sandburg had a farm,
E, I ,E ,I , O
And on that farm she had some cats
E, I ,E ,I , O
With a meow here
And a meow there
Here a meow, there a meow, everywhere a meow
Mrs. Sandburg had a farm,
E, I ,E ,I , O

Mrs. Sandburg had a farm,
E, I ,E ,I , O
And on that farm she had some chickens
E, I ,E ,I , O
With a cluck, cluck here
And a cluck, cluck there
Here a cluck, there a cluck, everywhere a cluck, cluck
Mrs. Sandburg had a farm,
E, I ,E ,I , O

Trouble at Connemara Farm

Cast of Characters

Narrator 1

Narrator 2

Narrator 3

Narrator 4

Mrs. Sandburg

Goats

Chickens

Cats

Narrator 1: One day at Connemara Farm, the goats would not "maa".

Narrator 2: Poor Mrs. Sandburg did not know what to do.

Mrs. Sandburg: Oh, what will I do?

Narrator 3: She tried to scare them out of it.

Mrs. Sandburg: Boo!

Narrator 4: But all they did was sit and stare.

Narrator 1: The chickens clucked.

Chickens: Cluck, cluck, cluck, cluck.

Narrator 2: The cats meowed.

Cats: Meow, meow, meow, meow.

Narrator 3: But I'm afraid...

Narrator 4: ...those silly goats just misbehaved.

Narrator 1: Until Mrs. Sandburg had a thought.

Mrs. Sandburg: I have a thought!

Narrator 2: I guess she just plain forgot.

Mrs. Sandburg: I forgot what goats love best.

Narrator 3: Mrs. Sandburg remembered what goats love best.

Narrator 4: And that took care of all the rest.

Narrator 1: She sang the goats their favorite tune.

Mrs. Sandburg, cats and chickens sing: Mrs. Sandburg had a farm,

E, I ,E ,I , O

And on that farm she had some goats

E, I ,E ,I , O

With a maa, maa here

And a maa, maa there

Here a maa, there a maa, everywhere a maa, maa

Mrs. Sandburg had a farm,

E, I ,E ,I , O

Narrator 2: And soon the goats began to maa!

Goats: Maa, maa, maa, maa!

Narrator 3: Mrs. Sandburg cried aloud.

Mrs. Sandburg: Hurray! I will never forget again to sing the goats their favorite song.

Narrator 4: And now the goats will always "maa".





