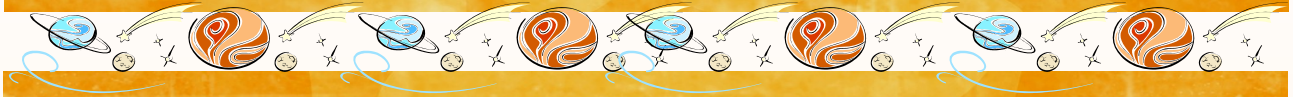


The Wishing Ball

written and illustrated by Elisa Kleven

Format and headings from Jumpstart.org



About this Lesson Plan

This School Library Storytime Lesson Plan is intended for kindergarteners with included adjustments for first-graders. The themes are “helping” and “friendship” while reading and exploring *The Wishing Ball* written and illustrated by Elisa Kleven.

Common Core Standards:

This Lesson Plan is designed to support Speaking and Listening Standards; Comprehension and Collaboration for K- 1 students by asking children to participate in conversations with peers and adults in groups (storytime & Activity #1). Also, it will cover Presentation of Knowledge and Ideas for K-1 students by asking children to create drawings or other visual displays to enhance descriptions covered in the story in order to provide additional or personal detail (Activity #2); and asking children to speak clearly and express their thoughts and feelings (Activity #1) (CCSSO & NGA, 2010).

Welcome & Warm-up

5 minutes

Can you see me? Have students gather around you in a horseshoe shape facing you so that you are visible. Ask them to put their hands on their heads if they can see you. Hold the book up and make sure that everyone can see it as well.

Sing a song: A Little Ball, A Big Ball (chant) & Make a Wish (song)

Credit: www.thebestkidsbooksite.com – Fingers Plays for Kids!

*Use these rhymes to prepare children for ideas found in *The Wishing Ball* that deal with bouncing balls and making a wish.*

A Little Ball, A Bigger Ball (To be performed two to three times)

A little ball
(clasp hands)

A bigger ball
(hands apart)
A great big ball I see
(big arc)
Now let's count the balls
ONE
(big arc)
TWO
(hands apart)
THREE
(clasp hands)

Make a Wish

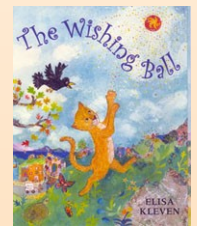
(To the Tune of: Frère Jacques w/children echoing)

Big birthday cake
(make huge circle with arms)
Ice cream in a dish
(cup hands)
Here are all the candles
(wiggle hands on one hand)
Now make a wish!



About Themes

Nellie the hungry cat is lonely and hopes someday for a warm place to live. Ernst the tender crocodile hopes that his sidewalk chalk drawing of a lion will come to life. Lucky for them both, Nellie meets a crafty crow who tries to play a trick on her by giving her a ball and telling her that it is a wish-giving star fallen from the sky. Nellie wishes so hard it sets off a chain of events that might make the cat's AND the crocodile's wishes come true!



This Lesson Plan's themes are centered around the themes in the book, which are friendship and helping. Ask children to put their fingers on their noses if they think that helping a friend is a nice thing to do. Explain to them that in the book about to be read, there is a cat named Nellie and a crocodile named Ernst who helped one another and then became friends.

Storytime

10 minutes

*Introduce the book: Tell children you will be reading *The Wishing Ball* by Elisa Kleven and there are three main characters in the story: Nellie the Lonely Cat (show them an illustration featuring Nellie), Ernst the Tender Crocodile (show Ernst illustration) and the Tricky Crow (show crow illustration).*

Begin reading.

New Words for *The Wishing Ball* by Elisa Kleven:
Define some of these words as you read.

- **Stray**—an animal that doesn't have a place to live
- **Saucer**—a small, round dish that holds a teacup or sometimes milk for cats to drink
- **Jowly**—to have lips that hang down low, below the face
- **Scowled**—had a gloomy or upset look
- **Roar**—to make a loud, thundering howl
- **Spattering**—a splash of something falling down, like rain
- **Clam chowder**—a thick, creamy soup made with clams, vegetables and potatoes
- **Plenty**—to have more than enough or enough to share
- **Streaked**—when something flashes by fast, like lightning

Reading Tips

- **Be expressive!** Smile when Nellie and Ernst make friends, growl when the shifty crow tricks Nellie. Give children a better understanding of what's happening in the story when they watch your face and listen to your voice.
- **Use the pictures!** Stop to talk about the illustrations. Ask kids about the other animals living in Nellie's town: what kind of animals are they? What are they doing?
- **Make it a conversation!** Listen carefully to your listeners.

Make Connections!

Everyone needs a little help from time to time. Nellie the Cat needed something to eat, a warm place to stay, and a friend. That's why she wished on the wishing ball – because she thought it was a star that could grant her wishes! Ernst the crocodile was looking for a friend, too - that's why he was wishing his sidewalk lion drawing would come to life and be his friend. When they found each other, Nellie and Ernst were so happy because they both got what they wished for – a new friend! Ask children to raise their hands if they can think of a wish they would wish for – call on four or five students.

Activity Time: choose one or both activities considering children's ages and time constraints

15-30 minutes

Materials

- This one's easy—all you need is a large plastic bouncy ball and a little patience!



Activity #1: What Would You Wish?

Overview: Children sit in a circle with you and think of something they wish for.

Preparation: Low

Learning Focus: This activity will connect children to the story and the previous question-and-answer period and will encourage them to think about themselves and what they think is important. The activity also helps to develop broad motor skills and allows children to get active without losing control.

Activity #1 continued

Introduction:

- Ask the children to get up from the horseshoe shape they were sitting in during storytime, get up and stretch out like a cat, move to a different area, and get in a circle and sit back down with you.
- Ask them to back up (so there is a little space between them), stick their legs out to make “V’s” and touch their feet together to close the circle. Demonstrate this with the two children sitting on either side of you.
- Explain that you are going to roll the ball towards one of them and that when they catch it, they are going to tell everyone a wish they want to wish for. Their wishes might be something like Nellie’s and Ernst’s – a new friend, or it might be something new like a new toy, a baby brother, or whatever they can come up with.
- Tell them that after they catch the ball and say their wish, you are going to ask everyone who hasn’t had the ball yet to put a finger on their nose. Then ask the ball-holder to roll the ball towards someone touching their nose.



Playing the game:

- Roll the ball across the circle to someone. When they catch it ask them what their wish is.
- Ask everyone who hasn’t had the ball to put a finger on their nose. Tell the child with the ball to roll it to someone touching their nose.
- *Moderate this very carefully* by being encouraging and helping kids when they get stuck and can’t think of anything. It’s ok if their wish is the same as someone else’s – sometimes people wish for the same things, just like Nellie and Ernst!
- Help them out when the ball goes astray or rolls to someone who’s already had a turn. Tell them to pass the ball to someone with a finger on their nose to help them be able to tell everyone their wish.

First grade adaptation:

- Instead of sitting in a circle, children can stand and try to bounce the ball across the circle to someone. Only one person is allowed to leave the circle at a time to go get a ball that has bounced away. Instruct children that after they’ve had their turn, they should sit down.

Activity #2: Sidewalk Chalk Lions

Materials

- Large squares of grey construction paper with white outlines of lion heads on them drawn by a stencil (or if weather permits and sidewalk is available, head outside!)
- Multi-color chalk and pastels
- Glue sticks
- Yarn for lion manes
- Baby wipes

Overview: Children will draw their own sidewalk chalk lions like Ernst did in the book.

Preparation: Low/Medium

Learning Focus: Children will look more closely at the book’s illustrations of Ernst’s sidewalk drawing. They will create their own sidewalk drawings using observations from the illustrations and add their own interpretations to their drawings. This will also help them to develop their fine motor skills.

Ask children to join you around a group of tables or desks.

Introduction:

- Show children the illustrations in the book where Ernst is drawing his sidewalk chalk lion.
- Explain that they are going to drawing their own sidewalk chalk lions. Walk them through the materials showing what everything is for: grey pieces of construction paper are supposed to be their “sidewalk squares”; chalk and pastels are for drawing and coloring; and yarn and glue sticks can be used to make the lions mane.
- Show them the outline you have stenciled onto the construction paper. Point out how it looks like a lion and where they might want to put things, i.e. eyes, nose, mount, teeth, mane, etc.
- Gather supplies. Pass out supplies and make sure everyone has enough to participate.



Drawing the lions:

- Pass out all the materials and make sure everyone has enough to make their drawings.
- Walk around and observe; what are they drawing? are they using similar colors as in the book's illustrations? do their lions look friendly? fierce? Ask the children these questions as you wander through the room
- Alert children when they only have three minutes to finish their lions. Tell them again when they have one minute.
- When everyone is finished ask them to lay the drawings next to each other on the floor to create a pretend sidewalk. Invite children to walk along side the side walk (NOT on it!) and look at everyone's drawings.
- Gather up the drawings and tell the children you will pass them back out after they've had their free time in the library to look at and check out books.

First Grade Adaptation:

- No need to use the stencil for the first graders. Instead, encourage them to draw any kind of lion they want: fierce, friendly, long manes, short manes, etc. Or maybe they want to try drawing a sidewalk animal that is not a lion, like a cat or a crocodile. Show them more illustrations of different animals from the book.

Free Time in the Library

10-15 minutes

- Announce that it is time to have free time in the library. Explain that this is a time during which children are allowed to walk around and explore the library, look at books, and check out any books that look interesting to them.
- Let everyone know that if they liked *The Wishing Ball*, they can come and tell you and you can help them find more books that are like it, i.e. other books by Elisa Kleven, books about cats or alligators, or books about helping and friendship. Have these books pulled from the shelf and available for children to look through.
- Wander through the library as children are browsing. If they seem overwhelmed, help them to narrow down their search by asking what they like to read, what they are interested in, etc.

1. Council of Chief State School Officers & the National Governors Association. June, 2010. *Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts & Literacy in History/Social Studies, Science, and Technical Subjects*. Retrieved from: <http://www.corestandards.org/>
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