

Lesson plan for 5th grade

Standard: CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.5.8, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.5.9.a

Objectives:

- The students will recall relevant information from the story and gather relevant information from print and digital sources.
- The students will compare and contrast two or more characters, drawing on specific details in the text and research.

Materials

- Book: Porcupining- a prickly love story by Lisa Wheeler
- Paper
- Pencil
- Computer for research or nonfiction books about porcupines and hedgehogs
- Hedgehog (class pet)
- Videos of porcupines (extra)

Introduction

Read Porcupining a heart-warming story about a lonely porcupine that just wants to be loved. However, no one has opened up to the porcupine because he is all prickly. He travels around the zoo trying to find a mate. No rabbit, pig, nor beaver dares to get near him. Then a hedgehog hears the porcupines lonely song and they fall in love. Noticing their similarities and mutual longing for company. While the teacher is reading, she can point out the feelings of both the hedgehog and the porcupine. Despite being prickly creatures they still yearn for attention. This could be applied to people as well. That is why we should be patient with others and take time to get to know them. The teacher can use this time to introduce the class hedgehog to the

Stephanie Mendoza

students. Slowly and patiently they can use two fingers to gently touch the pet. They may notice a train-like sound coming from the creature. This could mean it is nervous so they would need to be gentle.

After you are done showing the class your hedgehog go back to the story. Point out the quills on the porcupines back, and the type of fur the other animals have. Ask the students to point out those characteristics. Ask if those animals are compatible with a porcupine and explain why or why not. What about the hedgehog? Is it really suited for the porcupine? Or are they just similar?

Next

Draw a venn diagram and write hedgehog on the left and porcupine on the right. Ask for volunteers to fill out what we already know. For example: hedgehogs and porcupines have spikey fur. Then have students research in pairs the similarities and differences between the two animals. They may do this using a computer with internet or using nonfiction books about porcupines and hedgehogs.

Finally

Have students report their findings. Are these two animals compatible? Are they really that alike or are they also very different? Students should have discovered that hedgehogs and porcupines are not actually the same type of animal like most people assume. Hedgehogs are omnivores and are very small. The teacher can use this opportunity to take out the class hedgehog to show the size. Also their quills are small, not barbed, and do not shoot off their bodies. While porcupines are herbivorous rodents, that are much bigger than the hedgehog. They can not curl up and their quills are very released from their bodies. It is important to note that while the hedgehog and porcupine are very similar they are not the same animal.

Lesson plan for 3rd grade

Standard: W.3.2. Write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas and information clearly.

Objectives:

- Develop the topic with facts, definitions, and details.
- Using their five senses, the students will write about a memorable experience in an interesting way.

Materials

- Paper, pencil
- Book: A little bit of winter / by Paul Stewart ; pictures by Chris Riddell.

Summary: Hedgehog, who hibernates through the winter, wants to know what winter feels like, so he asks his friend Rabbit to save him a little bit of winter to share in the spring

Introduction

Ask students what their five senses are and write on the board. Then make a list of things together that can be seen, heard, touched, smelt, and tasted. Then ask about winter. "Can we see winter? How?" Write down students ideas. "Can we touch winter? How?" Write down students ideas. "Can we taste winter? How?" Write down students ideas. "Can we smell winter? How." This one will be harder. Think of things we cook or do during the winter time. Write student ideas. "Can we hear winter? How." This one will be harder. Think of things we cook or do during the winter time. Write student ideas.

Body

Read "A little bit of winter" with the students and discuss the ways hedgehogs good friend the rabbit saved winter for him. Discuss the reasons why Hedgehog can't see winter. Describe his

excitement at being able to experience winter for the first time. Next turn and talk with your shoulder partner about a memorable experience you had. For example: a vacation to Disney, going to college, meeting a celebrity. The teacher could describe the first time she met and held the class pet (hedgehog). “The experience was exciting, I could smell a slight musty, dirt smell coming from the prickly creature. She sounded like a train chugging along the railroad tracks...”

Lastly, have students write about their memorable experience through their five senses. Have the students share their papers with a partner. Papers should have an introduction, body and conclusion.