

Banana-Read-a-Rama

Written by Jane Noble and Laurie Brazzill

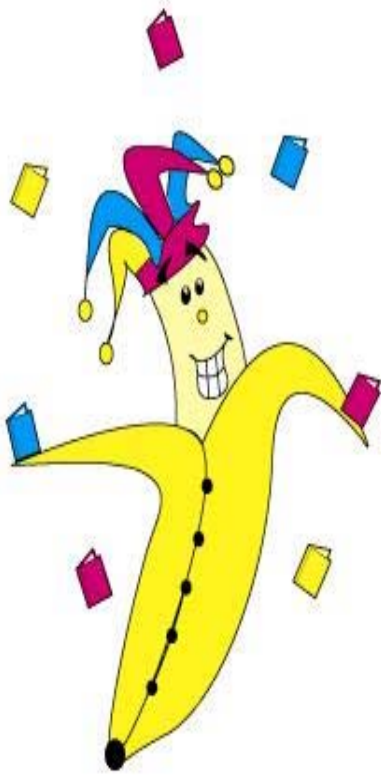
PRIMARY BOOK TITLES

HOW I BECAME A PIRATE by Melina Long
ISBN 0152018484

THE RAINBOW FISH by Marcus Pfister
ISBN 1558580093

HUEVOS RANCHEROS by Stephan Czernecki
ISBN 1896580238

PRINCESS PRUNELLA & THE PURPLE PEANUT by
Margaret Atwood
ISBN 1550137891



INTERMEDIATE BOOK TITLES

THE GIVER by Lois Lowry
ISBN 0440219078

THE FOUNDLING by Lloyd Alexander
ISBN 0140378251

THROWAWAY DAUGHTER by Ting-Xing Ye
ISBN 0770429211

LADY LOLLIPOP by Dick King-Smith
ISBN 0763621811

THE COMPANY

HOOKED ON BOOKS THEATRE FOR CHILDREN is committed to creating quality children's entertainment that educates, engages the imagination and above all, inspires children to WANT to read.

Since its creation in 1996, HOOKED ON BOOKS has established an outstanding reputation throughout Western Canada and the Pacific Northwest United States for its highly original and unique blend of educational theatre that inspires children to read by introducing them to a series of "booktrailers" or mini plays. These mini plays stimulate and excite the children without giving everything away so there is still lots to discover when they read the books for themselves afterwards.

BANANA-READ-A-RAMA is the company's eleventh show and this is their tenth anniversary year. Over 700,000 children in elementary schools and theatres throughout the country have enjoyed their other ten hit shows.

Creators Jane Noble and Laurie Brazzill both have a strong background in education, writing, directing and all aspects of professional acting - film, television, radio and theatre. They organize workshops for teachers on Bringing Books to Life in the Classroom and for actors on the art of performing for children.

COSTUMES & PROPS by Jane Noble & Laurie Brazzill

GENERAL IDEAS AND FOLLOW-UP ACTIVITIES

1. If the children have enjoyed a particular story, they can be encouraged to look for other books by the same author.
2. The idea of leaving a story unfinished is to inspire the children to find out what happens next. As an instructor, you may choose to complete the story in the classroom, or to encourage the children to find out for themselves. If the book is too advanced for their reading skills, then parent/teacher assistance may be required.
3. All the stories can lend themselves to creative writing activities and the open-ended stories allow the child to create his or her own ending, before reading the author's version. The books also serve as a stimulus for a wealth of related art and craft activities.
4. Children at different levels of development and reading skills can still work together on the same project, e.g. the more advanced child could be the director or scriptwriter, while another child could be involved in providing illustrations or making props and costumes.
5. The advantage of using the stories presented by HOOKED ON BOOKS as a springboard for creative writing assignments in the classroom is that even children who have difficulty with aural visualization will have been able to establish a clear understanding of the characters and their relationships through watching the show. This gives them a concrete image to relate to while writing.
6. Television, an integral part of many children's lives, takes away the need to be personally engaged in the creative process and is a passive activity. Reading can be too challenging for some children. If they do not meet with instant success, they often give up. HOOKED ON BOOKS provides a stepping-stone between passivity and engagement.
7. During the performance, some of the stories utilize a high degree of interaction between the characters and the audience. Children have the opportunity to play a variety of roles. A teacher may choose to re-enact any of these stories in the classroom so that different children may have an opportunity to play the central characters.

PRIMARY PROGRAM

HOW I BECAME A PIRATE by Melina Long

This lively and beautifully illustrated book is full of swashbuckling pirate talk and colourful, grizzly characters. It tells of young Jeremy Jacob's adventures when he is invited to join Captain Braid Beard's pirate ship. At first he loves the rough and rollicking life until a huge storm brews.

Writing

Rewrite the story in comic book form, with a short sentence under a picture depicting the action.
Write a short pirate poem with a chorus that the pirates would chant while rigging their ship.

Sailing

Have a look at pictures of old sailing ships and find out about different types of sailing vessels. Introduce the children to some of the most commonly used sailing terms.

Art & Crafts

Draw a picture of a pirate ship. Give your ship a name.
Make your own pirate hat out of paper and colour it. Make your own treasure map.

Treasure Hunt

The teacher can hide objects and clues in the playground or classroom. The children have to follow a map and solve riddles and puzzles to locate the "treasure". Maybe they also need to collect items, as in a Scavenger Hunt.

RAINBOW FISH by Marcus Pfister

The Rainbow Fish is covered in shimmering, silver scales. He is the most beautiful fish in the entire ocean, but he is selfish and proud. The story shows how sharing and friendship are more important than material possessions.

Friendship

Who are your friends? List 5 qualities you admire in them. List 5 qualities you admire in yourself.
Discuss the importance of sharing and inclusion. How does it feel when you are left out? Relate this to problems in the playground.

Art

Make a mural of the Rainbow Fish and his new friends. Use fabric, paint, tin foil etc. Make silver scales removable. Make cardboard fish and decorate. Use these in your drama project.

Drama

Teacher can retell the story with children acting out fish roles. Use cardboard fish. Teach children the HOOKED ON BOOKS Fish Song Chorus :

Swish swash, swish swash,
Shimmer, glimmer, glide,
We swim above and dive below
The ocean's watery tide.

Sea Life

What kinds of creatures live in or near the sea? Fish, mammals, birds etc
What is coral? Where are the main coral reefs of the world? Name the oceans of the world. How does an ocean's temperature affect sea life? What interesting things can you collect on the beach? What different beaches have the children been to? Field trip to collect shells etc.

Study Guide

Banana-read-a-Rama by Jane noble & Laurie Brazzill

INTERMEDIATE PROGRAM

THE GIVER by Lois Lowry

The Giver is an award winning book looking forward in time to the possible future of our world, where everything exists in a shade of grey : no colour, no emotion, no war, no pain, no disease, no disabilities. Everything is controlled by a Committee of Elders.

<http://www.tallmania.com/Giver.html>

Writing

Write a story describing your own vision of the future. Optimistic or pessimistic? Reasons for your choice. Discuss with your class.

Explore and expand on the following key ideas in the book:

- a) What a society values reveals a great deal about the people and their leaders.
- b) Analyse a rule in The Giver's society. Explain the pros and cons then recommend or condemn the rule. Debate.
- c) Journal project. How are memories special? My most treasured memory is.....
- d) Is our society moving in the direction of the book? What other eras in history reflect the total mind control of a society? In what ways can we strive to protect our own society from becoming like the one in which Jonas lives?

List some of the key "different" words in the story eg released, comfort object and give our modern version.

Write your own sci-fi story. What different language would your characters use in the future for everyday objects such as car, house, school etc?

Colour

What do you like about colours? What do they add to our world? How do specific colours make you feel? Think of different situations in which colour is extremely important eg. Traffic lights, fashion, plants luring insects for pollination etc.

Job Assignments

If you were being watched every day by the Elders, what job do you think you would be assigned and why?

Individuality / Teamwork

In THE GIVER, the Group is more important than the Individual. Discuss the importance of teamwork and fitting in. What kind of jobs require teamwork? Why is it important to recognise differences in people and individual talents?

History

Consider some of the great figures in history who "set themselves apart from the group", who dared to be different. What did they accomplish? How has this changed our world? What price did they pay?

Hot Seat

Assume the persona of one of the characters in the book. Answer questions from classmates, remaining in character, until they guess who you are.

THE FOUNDLING by Lloyd Alexander

This book contains eight short stories that explore the mythical land of Prydain, the setting of the acclaimed fantasy series that includes the 1969 Newbery Medal winner, *The High King* (1969). The stories are morality tales about honor, the price of knowledge, the importance of community, the value of friendship, the sacredness of life. *The Foundling* is the story of the old enchanter Dallben and how he is found as a baby floating in a wicker basket by the three old hags of the Marshes of Morva.

Writing & Art

Create your own imaginary land. Draw a map and name the areas. Add fantastical creatures and characters and write a simple story about them. Write your own magic spell.

Drama & Characterization

Make hag masks out of paper mache and create a class chant. Add actions and perform it. Here is the verse from the show.

Hubble, bubble, toil & trouble
Wilma, Fred & Betty Rubble
Eye of newt and froggy's toes
Tasty boogers from your nose

Tail of a rat and tooth of a bat
And pickled eyes to make you wise
Stir it up and boil the brew
But do not taste it whatever you do.

Dip to the left and dip to the right
Swing your backside into the night
Grab your partner and do si doe-s
Howl at the moon while you wiggle your toes. Owwoo!

List standard fairy tale characters, e.g. the wicked witch, the good son, the beautiful princess etc and encourage the children to create a fuller, more complex character from these basic two-dimensional stock characters. List five good characteristics about your character and five characteristics that may get your character into trouble!

THROWAWAY DAUGHTER by Ting-Xing Ye

Throwaway Daughter tells the dramatic and moving story of Grace Dong-mei Parker, a typical Canadian teenager until the day she witnesses the Tiananmen Square massacre on television. She sets out to explore her Chinese ancestry and discovers that she was one of the thousands of infant girls abandoned in China since the introduction of the one-child-per-family policy. In search of her birth mother, Grace travels back the Chinese village where she was born, and discovers the truth of what happened to her almost twenty years before.

www.orillia.org/williambell/tingxingye.htm

Quote from the author answering the question where she got the idea for the story

"I did quite a bit of research before I began to write. For instance, in 1991 one report of China's Ministry of Civil Affairs said that the country only had 140,000 orphans. But a UN survey revealed that in just one province, Jiangxi, with a population of 40 million, 50,000 babies were abandoned in 1993. Based on that figure, a US sinologist estimated that about one million children are abandoned each year in China. Also in 1993, in one of the orphanages in the city of Nanjing, staff freely admitted that 90% of the 50 to 60 baby girls who arrived there each month would never be adopted. Having lived in

Study Guide

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China for 35 years and a mother myself, I know only too well that there are no statistics available on the number of unwanted baby girls who are treated less generously. With only one chance to have a male child, many families have taken advantage of options to ensure that they have a boy to raise, options that include abortion of female fetuses, and infanticide."

Population control

This book provides excellent discussion material on the population explosion crisis and the role of government in controlling our lives. In China, families are already limited to one child per family. In many cultures, a large family is considered necessary to ensure that parents are looked after in their old age. Should Governments be allowed to decide how many children couples are allowed to have?

Discuss the role of the male child v. female child in different cultures. In what ways can we control the population growth in our world? We are rapidly using up the world's resources. What can we do to make sure that people have enough to eat?

Chinese Culture

How does it differ from Canadian culture - food, traditions, language, writing.

Art

Research the Chinese character for boy or girl and paint it.

Discussion

The importance of belonging, feeling part of a community. Difficulties encountered by 2nd or 3rd generation immigrants. Difference between the parents' old country values and views of the younger generation. Peer pressure.

LADY LOLLIPOP by Dick King-Smith

Penelope is a spoilt, bratty princess who chooses a pig as her eighth birthday present. During the story, it is the pig, Lady Lollipop who teaches the princess manners. With his usual humour, evident love and understanding of pigs, and delightful storyline, Dick King-Smith has created yet another wonderful pig hero for us to enjoy.

Discussion

What do animals help us with in real life?

What kind of jobs do they do? What can we learn from them?

Writing

Write a story in which an animal teaches you something.