The Mitten

Based on Jan Brett's Classic Storybook

Suggested Grades: K-2

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National Core Arts Standards

#1 – Generate and conceptualize artistic ideas and work.

Objectives

- Low Sol
- Quarter Notes
- Eighth Notes

Materials

- The Mitten by Jan Brett
- Click here to access visuals/media
- Optional: Classroom Percussion Instruments, Pipe Cleaners, Yarn

Suggested Teaching Process:

1. Vocal Explorations
   - Vocal explorations are a fun way to get students' voices warmed up and ready to sing!
   - If using the visuals provided above, I often model the first one or two and have students take turns leading each of the eight animated vocal explorations.
   - You can also draw paths on paper or the board for students to sing, have students use manipulatives such as yarn or pipe cleaners to create their own singing pathway.

2. Solfege
   - The song used throughout the story uses the melody from "The Farmer in the Dell."
   - There are four solfege exercises in the visuals provided above
     Each exercise is a phrase of "The Farmer in the Dell," preparing students to sing throughout the story.
   - The solfege includes Low Sol, Do, Re, Mi, Sol, and La.

3. Story and Song
Jan Brett's story of The Mitten tells the tale of a little boy who desperately wanted white mittens, but he sadly lost one in the snow. The lost mitten becomes a shelter for several animals of all sizes! As we read about each of the animals, we sing a new verse of "The Farmer in the Dell," adapted to fit our story. The lyrics in each slide match the story's animals. I recommend displaying the lyrics to reference throughout the story.
• The mitten’s on the ground, the mitten’s on the ground, Hi-Ho! It’s cold outside; the mitten’s on the ground.
• The mole burrows in; the mole burrows in, Hi-Ho! It’s cold outside; the mole burrows in.
• The rabbit hops in, the rabbit hops in, Hi-Ho! It’s cold outside; the rabbit hops in.
• The hedgehog snuffles in, the hedgehog snuffles in, Hi-Ho! It’s cold outside, the hedgehog snuffles in.
• The owl swoops in, the owl swoops in, Hi-Ho! It’s cold outside; the owl swoops in.
• The badger climbs in; the badger climbs in, Hi-Ho! It’s cold outside; the badger climbs in.
• The fox trots in; the fox trots in, Hi-Ho! It’s cold outside; the fox trots in.
• The bear lumbers in; the bear lumbers in, Hi-Ho! It’s cold outside; the bear lumbers in.
• The mouse wiggles in, the mouse wiggles in, Hi-Ho! It’s cold outside, the mouse wiggles in.

4. Movement Break
After reading and singing, many students will need a movement break. I have included one in the form of a YouTube video in the visuals provided above.

5. Rhythm Practice
• The last activity I do with my students is rhythm practice. I
• The slides include a Rhythm Play-Along practicing both quarter and eighth notes.
• While distance learning, students can either clap the rhythms or play a found sound instrument.
• In the classroom, have students clap the rhythms or distribute unpitched percussion instruments for students to play.

References:


