

Theme

Great Teachers Long Ago

Story Title

Garama, the Teacher

Writing Lesson

Compare/Contrast Paragraph

National Writing Standards

3 Evaluation Strategies; 4 Communication Skills; 5 Communication Strategies; 7 Evaluating Data

6+1 Trait®

Organization; Ideas and Content

Art Making and Meaning Question

Subject Matter:

What people, places, and things are shown?

Objectives

Students will:

Incorporate a graphic organizer (Venn diagram) to visually compare and contrast themselves with their selected animal.

Reflect on their characteristics, likes and dislikes, and select an animal they feel best represents them.

Compose a compare/contrast paragraph that captures how the students feel they share similarities and differences with the animal they chose.

Analyze how recognizing personal characteristics can help them make decisions in their life.

Recognize how their cultures play a role in shaping the type of person they are.

Preparation

This lesson uses the story, "Garama the Teacher". Read the story ahead of time and underline key comparisons Garama makes between Dassy and several animals.

Select how you wish to have the story read to the students. They may take turns. You may read the story to them or make a recording of the story ahead of time and play it to the students as they read along.

Make copies of the story.

Prepare copies, transparencies, or use images from ArtsConnectEd Supplement, or from other sources, that depict artwork that have animals as the subject matter. In addition, provide examples of artwork that reflect how artists use animal imagery to symbolize human characteristics.

Make an overhead of the Venn diagram.

Have several visual resources on hand so students can study a variety of animals.

Activities

1.) Ask students the following questions: Have you ever noticed how people sometimes look like certain animals? Have you ever seen examples of people

and their pets photographed together and who they look alike? Have you ever watched people and thought that the way a person moves is similar to the movements of an animal?

2.) Have the students give you specific examples of >>>KARLA: examples of what?<<<. Tell the students that throughout time humans have noticed similarities they share with animals.

3. Pass out copies of “Garama, the Teacher” to the students. Inform students that they will be reading a short story about a wise teacher who used her knowledge of animals and nature to help a young girl discover who she was.

4.) Read the story. While the story is being read, demonstrate how Garama compares Dassy’s skills to the skills of different animals by filling in the overhead copy of the Venn diagram (you may need several copies) as the story is being read as Garama compares Dassy to several animals.

5.) Introduce students to the concept that throughout time many cultures have selected certain animal traits to represent human characteristics.

6.) Instruct the students that they will do research and select an animal they feel best represents them.

7.) Instruct students to fill out their own Venn diagram copy; comparing and contrasting themselves with the animal they chose.

8.) Direct students to use the Venn diagram as a visual organizer to assist them in composing a paragraph that details the comparison and contrast of the similarities and differences between the appearance, skills, lifestyle, or personality of a particular animal and themselves.

Resources

Erickson, M. (2005). *Art making and meaning: Understanding through questions*. Tucson, AZ: CRIZMAC.

Sebranek, P. Kemper D. & Meyer, V. (2005). *Write source: A book for writing, thinking, and learning*. Wilmington, MA: Houghton Mifflin.